



NHGS NEWS 2018/19: ISSUE ONE

OCTOBER HALF TERM

IN THIS ISSUE

- A new vision for NHGS
- Parent View
- Well-being: Issue 1
- Year 7 Howarth Residential
- Year 11 Work Experience
- Gold Duke of Edinburgh
- Sixth Form Induction
- Sporting News
- Other News
- Looking Forward
- Interview with a former Student
- Parents' Association News
- New Staff and Goodbyes
- PA Christmas Fayre

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 Thursday October 11th, was very well attended. The induction events for Year 7 at Haworth and Year 12 at school 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.

Mr Fisher

A NEW VISION FOR NHGS

As many of you will know, NHGS has been through a period of considerable change over the last few years. These changes are most apparent in the physical fabric of the school: new roofs and windows have made us less like an oversized colander, new lifts and ramps have made us more accessible and inclusive, and the new Sports Hall has transformed our PE facilities. We have re-branded and changed our uniform, introduced additional staff focussed on student well-being (see page 3), and made subtle, but important, changes to many internal systems.

And yet we remain resolutely ourselves – a friendly, caring school where children have fantastic

opportunities to flourish not just academically but in a whole host of other ways too. We are confident in our identity and delighted that so many of you 'get' the school and its ethos and are (by and large) happy with most of what we do. (See the Parent View results from last year's questionnaires later in this edition).

But no institution can rest on its laurels. We know we can and must improve still further and, with that in mind, we have refreshed our Vision Statement to inspire both ourselves and the children we serve to even greater heights. I hope you recognise the NHGS you already know in it, but also see the potential in the statement to carry us further still in our journey to being world-class.

NHGS Vision

NHGS is the school that everyone wishes they went to: where enthusiasm is infectious and excellence is standard; where co-operation is at the heart of all we do; where everyone strives to achieve their goals and is mindful of the right ways to do so.

We equip our students with the knowledge, skills and understanding to navigate life with confidence and set courses of their own choosing. Together, we develop the whole person by:

Living to Learn | Learning to Live

PARENT VIEW

Last year very many of you kindly filled in an Ofsted-style Parent View questionnaire at each Year Group's Parents' Consultation Evening. Thank you so much for doing so – and please do it again this year!

The results of the 2017/18 survey are reproduced below. I am delighted by the overall results – our School Improvement Partner (an experienced ex HMI) has commented that she has never seen such positive scores in all her years of inspection. That is fantastic but nobody here in school will be satisfied until we get 100% in all areas! A couple of obvious places to start looking at how we can make improvements are in the areas of homework and reporting arrangements. I am not quite daft enough to believe we will ever fully please everybody all the time (it might be tough to satisfy both those who advocate no homework at all and those who feel we set far too little!) but we will see what we can do.

Survey Results

We asked you how you felt about each of the following statements. Your replies were:

Question	Strongly Agree / Agree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree	No reason to believe not/ not applicable
My child is happy	98%	2%	
My child feels safe	100%	0%	
My child makes good progress	96%	4%	
My child is well looked after	99%	1%	
My child is taught well	97%	4%	
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	93%	7%	
School makes sure its pupils are well behaved	97%	3%	
School deals effectively with bullying	46%	2%	52%
School is well led and managed	98%	2%	
School responds well to any concerns I raise	66%	4%	30%
I receive valuable information about my child's progress	95%	5%	
Question	Yes	No	
Recommend this school to another parent?	98%	2%	

Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

WELL-BEING PART 1: An introduction to Well-being



At NHGS we place great emphasis on the well-being of all staff and students in the school. The school's vision states that "co-operation is at the heart of all we do"; NHGS is a school "where everyone strives to achieve their goals and is mindful of the right ways to do so."

We have a clear focus on safeguarding and mental health, and have built a team which provides outstanding well-being provision. We have worked hard over recent years to raise awareness of well-being and to break down taboos surrounding mental health through RPSE lessons, assemblies, displays around the school, and

presentations to parent focus-groups. A survey of the whole school student population showed that nearly half had had well-being support at some time in their school careers. Numbers of referrals from staff, and student self-referrals have increased, but crucially there have been far more

98% OF STUDENTS WERE HAPPY & 100% FELT SAFE IN THE SCHOOL

early interventions, dealing with issues before they progress to more significant levels. The results of parental surveys from the various Parents' Evenings last year showed that a remarkable 98% of students were happy and 100%

felt safe in school. Results such as these are extremely gratifying, but there is never room for complacency. The Pastoral, SEND and Well-being teams constantly strive to provide joined-up support which signposts students to the best help possible, whether this is internal or involves external agencies.

Developing in students a capacity to learn is obviously a very important aspect of what we do at NHGS. But we also want to prepare students for life, to build resilience and to develop the means to look after their own well-being. This is why at NHGS our motto is Living to Learn, Learning to Live.

Mr D R Wood, Vice Principal

FULL-TIME PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLING |

happy and well young people
become successful, resilient adults



My name is Mrs Booth and I became the Well-being and Engagement Officer at NHGS five years ago after running the Noah's Ark Counselling Service just down the road. I have been a counsellor for ten years and, alongside that, an English teacher and Year Group Leader for over twenty years in several secondary schools. This enables me to offer not only counselling, but also engagement support for exam stress, revision strategies, organisational issues, friendship problems, confidence-building and resilience, plus boosting concentration and motivation.

NHGS is unique in Calderdale in recognising that a full-time, professionally qualified counsellor can provide the early intervention needed to nip well-being issues in the bud. Our belief is simple: that happy and well young people become successful, resilient adults. We think that students learn more effectively in a school environment where there is support for their welfare, happiness and engagement with life inside and outside school. As Public Health England reported, good well-being levels in students have a more significant impact on their academic achievement than their IQ (*'The Link between Pupil Health and Well-being and Attainment'*, 2014).

Most commonly students present with anxiety, low mood, bereavement, low self-esteem, eating and sleep problems and relationship issues.

SO, WHAT'S ON OFFER

- ❑ Drop-in emotional support at any time, with no waiting time, in a space conducive to talking.
- ❑ One-to-one professional counselling, usually weekly.
- ❑ Referrals accepted from students themselves, friends, parents and any member of staff.
- ❑ Well-being training & support for all staff. There is evidence that young people are happier when they feel they belong to a school environment where everyone's well-being is a priority.
- ❑ Student feedback & evaluation on every intervention means that if there are aspects of school life creating stress, the school makes appropriate changes.



My name is Mrs Lamb and I am the School Welfare Officer. There are many aspects to my job which together are all about looking after the well-being of students. My role involves working alongside the pastoral team to help support the students from the moment they set foot in school in Year 7 to when they leave. Students know my door is open for them to drop in at any time, whether for a quick bit of reassurance or for more deep-seated issues.

I am also responsible for assisting and coordinating any medical needs a student may have whilst at NHGS. This includes any short term ailments for which they require support, or if longer term, working alongside the school nursing team and medical teams connected to students' needs to draw up and implement health care plans where needed. I also liaise with staff to coordinate the medical information for school residential and day trips.



My name is Mrs McMillan and I am the Senior Support Assistant in the school's SEND department. I've worked in schools for many years, supporting students with a range of additional needs including ASD, dyslexia, dyspraxia, physical disabilities and behavioural issues. I've been fortunate to work at NHGS for eight years and enjoy working with a fantastic bunch of students. My role includes: -

Supporting students. This may be offering practical support e.g. working alongside students to develop revision timetables, managing homework/exams or providing emotional support, confidence building and a 'friendly listening ear' when required.

Supporting a lunchtime club, where students are able to chat, play games and form friendships in a supportive environment.

Working alongside the SENDCo to liaise with students, parents and outside agencies to help provide holistic support to pupils.

Providing transitional visits for incoming students with additional needs, to help alleviate their anxiety and provide the best possible transition.

HAWORTH YEAR 7 RESIDENTIAL

The Haworth trip is at the heart of our values - it's about team working and co-operation - with up to 80 different feeder schools - it's a crucial part of new students' induction to NHGS. All Year 7 students attend as a form group, along with their Student Progress Tutor (SPT)

These photographs show a couple of the activities that students get involved in whilst at Haworth: team building activities run by Mixenden Activity Centre and a treasure hunt around Haworth village. Both are designed to improve communication between students, develop leadership skills and get students working cooperatively.



For more photographs, please see the website www.nhgs.co.uk/students/learning-live/extra-curricular/haworth-year-7-residential

24 hours at Haworth by Phoebe, Year 7

Haworth is a trip that cements a friendship or creates another fantastic one. It is an opportunity to understand your classmates and really make a bond with them. Before I went I was anxious that I would not enjoy my time there. I was worried that I would lose my friendships that I had just made but I was completely wrong.

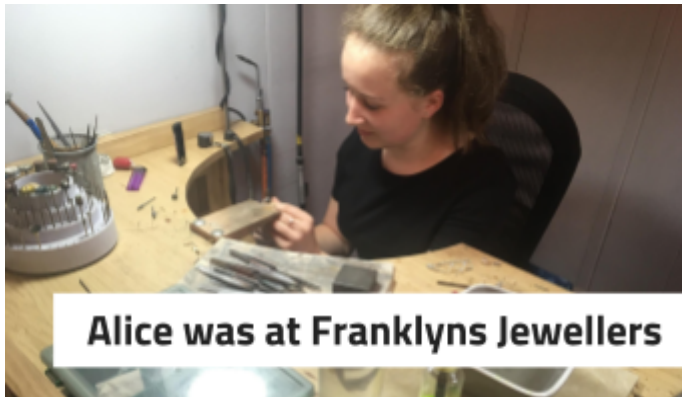
This trip helped me to learn how to take some responsibility for myself which was great practice for school. It also helped me boost my confidence and I learnt how to make conversation with others. The activities that we did were extremely fun and enjoyable but they really helped us all understand how to work with one another. We did a spider web task

which involved carrying each other through gaps of the ropes without hitting the string - as well as that we had free time which was great as we were able to do the things we were interested in and share our hobbies with others. Through the tasks we realised each other's personalities, likes and dislikes. We used each other's strengths to complete the tasks. We really learnt a lot in terms of teamwork. To top off the residential, the food was delicious.

From this experience I have learnt that giving things a go and putting yourself out there is the best way to learn and experience things you might not have done before.

By Phoebe, Year 7.

NEWS: YEAR 11 WORK EXPERIENCE



Alice was at Franklyn's Jewellers



James was at Vision Express

During the first half-term, Year 11 students spent 5 days in work experience placements. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and resulted in a number of students being offered part time employment or being offered apprenticeships and graduate schemes in the future.

Alfie went to Edkins & Holmes Estate Agents

Edkins & Holmes Estate Agents said: Alfie has gone above and beyond, he has been incredibly helpful and they wished they could give more than 10/10 for student performance. Alfie has undertaken a number of tasks including viewings with an Estate Agent.

Alfie said: I have enjoyed this week and it has been a valuable experience. I got a real insight into working life.

Pia went to Ravenscliffe High School

Ravenscliffe High School said: She was amazing! We would employ her in a heartbeat. She was liked by all members of staff and students. She showed empathy and maturity when dealing with students, joined in and had fun. When a member of staff was absent due to illness, she stepped in and filled her shoes. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive and Jo wanted to emphasise how fantastic she was.

Pia said: Ravenscliffe was a beautiful and positive environment and dealing with such kind children so full of life helped me realise that ignorant stigmas attached to educational needs are wrong and that these children were smart, funny and energetic and how crucial this school was to their enjoyment in education; this placement was truly heart-warming and enlightening.

Olivia went to Faithful & Gould – London

Faithful & Gould (London) said: Olivia was an absolute pleasure to have with us for the week. She was keen, professional and extremely inquisitive which was infectious to be around. She remained very astute throughout all the meetings she attended, maintained high energy levels despite the busy diary and held very mature conversation. Olivia prepared a presentation and presented to myself and an Associate Director on her final day. Her presentation was to such a high quality and her insightfulness into what she had seen and understood in such a short space of time was remarkable. She has been offered an apprenticeship or graduate placement in the future! She is a credit to the school. Well done!

Olivia said: My week in London working with the project management team was exceptional. Having the opportunity to work with numerous teams within the construction industry has been valuable as it has allowed me to gain insight into my future career. Throughout I have acquired numerous skills such as perseverance, strategic planning, analytical performance and communication skills. As well as both onsite and offsite visits I got to experience many tourist destinations around London with a brilliant and enthusiastic team. I am extremely grateful to have pursued this experience and attained such positive feedback from Directors at the company offering an apprenticeship and graduate placement.

Penny went to Lloyds Banking Group

Lloyds Banking Group said: Penny shone as an example student: punctual, articulate, polite, engaged, willing to participate and good humoured. It was clear that she was genuinely interested in being on her placement and wanted to learn as much from her time with us as she could.

Penny said: I learned a lot about apprentices and graduate schemes it was very interesting. Lloyds were very organised and I learned a lot about presenting and helpful tips for interviews and my CV which is helpful.

Gala's Story

Gala worked with Chol Theatre 'Our Biennale' residency at the North Huddersfield Trust School to help with their production of Romeo and Juliet and to choreograph a dance piece. Gala has written a blog about her time with the theatre:

<https://evokekirklees.org/o-she-doth-teach-the-torches-to-burn-bright/>

Creative Freedom

Maisy and Libby were asked to compose short articles to be featured in the Halifax Courier. This involved researching events and writing pieces with very little guidance. They were trusted to write articles and enjoyed a lot of creative freedom.

<https://www.halifaxcourier.co.uk/news/halifax-based-lloyds-wins-national-employment-award-1-9381343>

Making it Happen



Some students have very definite ideas about the type of placement they want, and many invest a lot of time and effort in making this dream a reality. Lydia really wanted to work in a zoo, so she researched until she found a zoo that was able to take her at her age and she went to a **Noah's Ark Zoo Farm in Bristol**. Not exactly a bus ride away, her mum went and spent the week in Bristol with her. She had a fantastic experience: fully deserved after the trouble she went to to get it.

We would like to say a massive THANK YOU to all the employers who welcomed our students:

A T Graphics, AECOM, Andrew Greenwood Electrical, Ashwood House Pet Resort, Attercopa, Bankfield Museum, Beckside Road Dental Practice, BICS Laboratory Ltd, Brian Slattery Plumbers, Blacks Solicitors LLP, Boxford Holdings Ltd, Bradford MDC - Corporate Resources, Brighthouse Veterinary Centre, Brook Pharmacy, Calderdale & Huddersfield NHS Trust – special case, Cameo Hair & Beauty, CHOL Theatre, City Bloc Climbing, Clayton Dental Surgery, Copley and New Road Primary School / New Road Primary School, Craven Slater & Associates Ltd, Croda Europe Ltd, Crofton Academy, Denford Ltd, Donaldson's Vets, Early Years @ Lightcliffe, Edkins & Holmes Estate Agents, Eureka Museum & Nursery, Exa Networks, Faithful and Gould, Foxhill Primary School, Franklin Templeton Investments, Franklins Jewellers, Friendly Animal Clinic, Frizinghall Pharmacy, Gagarin Studios, Gatehouse Veterinary Group, Gordon Rigg Garden Centre, Grahame Stowe Bateson Solicitors, Hair and Beauty, Hart and Clough Ltd, Harvey's Department Store, Haworth Primary School, Hird & Partners – Halifax & Walsden, Hot Tile Importers Ltd, Huddersfield Council - Engineering & Architecture, Huddersfield Town Football Club, Institute of Cancer Therapeutics - University of Bradford, Instyle Homes Limited, Integrity IT Solutions, Jacobs, JTC600 Ferrari, Julia Ogden, Keighley Civic Centre - Parliament, King Cross Pharmacy, Knights Stainforth Camping & Caravan Site, Kokoon Ltd, Labour Party – Holly Lynch, League Express, Lightcliffe CofE Primary School, Limehouse TV, Lindley Adams Ltd, Lloyds Banking Group - Copley Data Centre, Lloyds Banking Group - Trinity Road, LVMH Watch & Jewellery UK, Maltings Dental Practice, Manrochem, Marks and Spencers, Martinhal Cascais Family Hotel - Portugal, McVities, Medichem Northolme Ltd, Microsearch Laboratories, Midnight Pharmacy, Mixenden Activity Centre, Moortown Construction, Natwest Bank, Noah's Ark Zoo Farm, Norland Primary School, North Bridge Leisure Centre, Northern Powergrid, Northowram Primary School, Orchard FM Facilities Management, Oxfam - Hebden Bridge, Parkinson Lane Primary School, Prego Italian Café Bar and Restaurant, Property @ Kemp & Co Ltd, Queensbury Community Programme Ltd, Ravenscliffe School, Red Ball Snooker and Restaurant - ISRAEL, Rise Electrical, Rojo Tech Ltd, RSPCA Charity Shop, Salterlee Primary School, Sara Packham Theatre School, SCM Plastering & Decorating, Scott Thompson Architects, Seymour Engineering Ltd, Shahid Ali & Co Solicitors, Shay Stadium, Shearbridge Veterinary Centre, Simple Displays Limited, Skills For Care, SORM Studios, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Keighley, St Luke's Hospital, St Mary's CE (VC) Junior & Infant School, St Michaels and All Angels Primary School, Stakehill Limited, Sunnyview Kennels and Cattery, Takbeer Poultry and Products Limited, TD Jagger, The Artworks, The Carpet Centre, The Cricket Asylum, The Halifax Courier, The Pain and Injury Clinic, The University of Huddersfield, The Yorkshire Clinic, Top Quality Cleaning Ltd, Torrington Orthopaedics, Valley Fit Studio, Vision Express, Wainstalls Junior & Infant School, Warley Road Primary School, West Yorkshire Police - special case, Whitehill Community Academy, Wilson & Co, Windmill DentistWM Hayes, Wright Angle Marketing LTD, YEME Architects, York Teaching Hospitals, Yorkshire Cat Rescue, Yorkshire Water Services Ltd, Your Event Solutions (YES)

GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Fifteen of our Year 13 students completed their final Gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition in Snowdonia, accompanied by Mr. Haworth and Mr. Jugroop.

The weather was certainly a mixed bag - with glorious autumnal sunshine on the first day, followed by heavy rain and gale force winds for the rest of the trip. Even Mr Haworth's expensive tent poles snapped. Despite the elements, the groups pulled together and spirits remained high throughout.

"It was a difficult trip for the students, but they gritted their teeth and showed real determination. Most of these students have made real progress in finishing off the other elements of the award too, and eight of our students attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace last year to receive their awards. Finishing Gold D of E does take commitment which is why it is so highly valued by employers as well as the participants."

Mr Haworth



NEWS FROM SIXTH FORM - WELCOME TO YEAR 12

As well as getting to grips with their A-level subjects, our Year 12 students have been settling into life as a member of the NHGS sixth form.

For students that studied at NHGS, it's been about moving up from the school and settling into the purpose-built Sixth Form Learning Centre. It's also been about recognising their new social standing and responsibilities that come with being some of the oldest students at NHGS.

For new students - the whole school environment, teachers and most of their fellow students are new territory and so we understand that this first half-term is the most crucial in their transition to the school. Feedback received suggests that both staff and students have made this period of transition easy for all newcomers.

I felt so welcomed back after 11 weeks off. My experience so far has been great. More study time and good relationships with teachers allow me to feel more independent.

NGHS School Student, L6

A warm welcoming environment, where everyone is happy to help.

New Student, L6

NHGS SIXTH FORM INDUCTION PROGRAMME



The Induction Programme is an important part of the settling in process for all lower sixth students.

Great weather meant that some activities could take place outside - making full use of our outdoor space and stunning surroundings. This year, the programme of activities included various team building activities - led by the Royal Air Force and a motivational guest speaker - The Investigator.

SIXTH FORM ENRICHMENT: CORE AND OPTIONAL

Students have also kicked off their core enrichment programmes - the aim of which is to build a broad range of skills and attributes, over and above their academic studies. Core enrichment takes place on a Wednesday afternoon and examples include touch typing, work experience placements, cooking, mentoring at primary schools and various sports.



Optional enrichment opportunities were launched at the Sixth Form Freshers' Fayre and more details can be found on the website under [Pastoral/ Extra-Curricular/ Timetable](#). The Sixth Form is at the heart of the school, both physically - and spiritually. Many of the enrichment opportunities allow sixth formers to exercise leadership skills acting as mentors for younger students.

SIXTH FORM COUNCIL

We have also appointed the Sixth Form Council; each tutor group has a representative who voices their forms' opinions at regular council meetings. It is an opportunity for students to air concerns or ideas over a whole range of Sixth Form issues.

NHGS SPORTING NEWS

FELL RUNNING



English Schools Fell Running Championships were held on Sunday 23rd October at Giggleswick School, Settle. Years 8 and 9 ran together and came 4th out of 16 schools. Here are the individual performances out of 173.

Alex (Y9) - 22nd
Patrick (Y8) - 25th
J D (Y9) - 69th
James (Y8) - 145th

NETBALL NEWS

West Yorkshire Netball

Congratulations to Eve (Y9), Isabel (Y9) and Kacey (Y10) who successfully trialed and were selected for the West Yorkshire Netball Squad.



Calderdale Netball Squad

Congratulations to NHGS students Florence (Y8), Olivia (Y7) and Phoebe (Y7) who were selected for the U13 Calderdale netball squad following a second trial on 24th October.

NHGS Netball Results

Year 11
v Rishworth won 21-13. Player of the match: Brea.
v Brighouse won 13-3. Player of the match: Hannah. Calderdale netball tournament semi-finalists.



Year 12/13 v Rishworth won 22-14. Players of the match: Jenna (Y13) & Emily (Y13). Calderdale netball tournament finalists.

Year 10 v Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge won 24-4. Players of the match: Emily & Eleanor.

Year 9 v Brighouse lost 14-25. Player of the match: Mollie.

Year 8 v Brighouse lost 6-14. Player of the match: Bella.

Year 7 v Brighouse won 11-2. Player of the match: Olivia.

HOCKEY



Congratulations to NHGS Hockey, who were runners up in the U19 Calderdale Schools Hockey Tournament. Well done to Anya, Carmelina, Ellie, Emma, Felicity, Kathy, Lizzy, Niamh, Penny and Phoebe.

GIRLS' RUGBY

Photo of Year 7 and 8 girls' rugby when they played against Brooksbank. First fixture for most students - great grit and determination.



BOYS' FOOTBALL RESULTS

Calderdale Schools League

Rastrick High School

Year 7 lost 5-2
Year 8 lost 5-1
Year 9 TBA
Year 10 drew 1-1

Lightcliffe Academy

Year 7 won 6-4
Year 8 won 3-2
Year 9 lost 3-2
Year 10 won 2-1

Brighouse High School

Year 7 drew 3-3
Year 8 won 3-1
Year 9 won 4-1
Year 10 lost 4-2

Ryburn Valley High School

Year 7 lost 6-0
Year 8 lost 5-2
Year 9 won 7-2
Year 10 drew 3-3

West Yorkshire Schools Cup

Batley Grammar School

Year 9 won 10 - 0

English Schools Cup

Abbey Grange, Leeds

Year 8 lost 3-2

Rastrick High School

Year 9 won 5-2
Year 10 won 2-1

Ermysted's Grammar School, Skipton

Year 11 won 3-1
6th form lost 5-4 on penalties, 1-1 after extra time.

BOYS' RUGBY UNION

White Rose Rugby Union Series

Year 8/U13

Trinity Academy Halifax

Won 20-10
Lost 15 - 10

Calder High School

Won 20-15
Lost 20- 5

Year 10/U15

Calder High School

Lost 20-15

Crossley Heath Grammar School

Lost 35-5

Whitcliffe Mount, Cleckheaton

Won 20-10

OTHER NEWS

#Restart A Heart Day

Tom from NHGS Sixth Form held CPR sessions for all of Year 7, as part of Restart a Heart Day on 16th October. Tom was supported by Mrs Lamb, Yorkshire Ambulance and West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service.

Tom learnt CPR as part of his St. John Ambulance Cadet training and is now passionate about passing this valuable life-saving skill on. It was certainly an energetic and busy morning with a total of 176 Y7 students trained in CPR. All students received a certificate and card, and Tom was awarded a certificate by Deputy Lieutenant Chris Harris (a former student).



Creative Writing



Congratulations to our creative writers. Jasmine (Y13) was one of the 100 commended young poets for the prestigious Foyle's Young Poet of the Year Award. Solomon (Y10) has won a prize in the Ilkley Young People's poetry competition as part of the Ilkley Festival.

Pens for Pennies by Jessica Weston

During the last half term of the last academic year, last year's 8.3 raised money for Brain Tumour Research and Support by collecting used pens. Each pen gives the charity around 2p for the plastic.

We collected pens in form but to reach our total of 1500 pens we had to ask the school for help. We started a competition to see who can bring in the most pens in and we had a box in the lower foyer to put a few pens in.

By the end of the term, we had collected around 15 kg of pens therefore we raised about £30 for BTRS. The form is very proud of what we have done and hope to carry on doing more in the coming years.



NHGS - COMING SOON NEXT HALF TERM

#ARMISTICE100 NHGS REMEMBERS



To mark the centenary of the Armistice, the History Department would like to involve students in a whole school Remembrance project to help them make a personal connection with a soldier of the First World War.

Lower school students have had a special assembly on Remembrance before half term and will be invited to choose a soldier from the First World War to remember on our NHGS Wall of Remembrance during the first week of November.

We would also like to invite students from other year groups, parents and staff to remember a First World War soldier and add their own messages to the wall. There will be a box of Remembrance cards to complete in the lower foyer if you wish to participate.

Some families may have already have personal stories about relatives that you can share with students. If not, then the British Legion website is the best place to start to find a soldier to remember.

Please encourage students to visit the website (www.everyoneremembered.org) and leave a message (they do not have to enter any personal data) and to write down the details of the soldier they remember and why they chose them, ready to create their work for the display in school.



Mrs Woodward will be remembering her great-great uncle Joseph who died at the Battle of Cambrai in November 1917



Mr Barker will be remembering his great-great uncle Walter who died at the Battle of the Somme in September 1916

Poppies will also be available for students to buy in school and there are numerous events being held in the local area on Sunday 11th November, if you would like to take your child along or watch the footage on the television. This would be especially useful for Year 8 students who are currently studying the First World War, and war poetry, and will be visiting battlefields and cemeteries on their residential to St Omer in July.

LAST POST

On Friday 9th we will be holding a school-wide minutes silence, while we listen to a reading and reflect. A student will also play The Last Post on his trumpet.

Christmas Card Competition

The Art Dept are helping to facilitate a Christmas Card Competition whereby the winning entry will be professionally printed and sent to Friends of NHGS. Participating students have been working on their designs over the last few weeks, and will be submitting their entries after October half term.

The winner will be selected by Mr Fisher and a former NHGS student, Lisa Cockroft who runs a design agency - Pepperdog Design. (<https://www.pepperdogdesign.co.uk>). **See feature on Former Pupil on page 15.**

Pupils are doing a good job, I'm sure there are also a few working on these independently at home ready to take us by storm when we return from the Half Term. There will be a Special Prize for the winning design.



Music Performances

The Music Department concert will be on November 21st at 7:15pm. Tickets are £5 and can be purchased in advance from the beginning of November.

Please note: the School Carol Service is on Tuesday 18th December. (This is wrong in the original letter that was sent home to Choir members).

Parents and friends of NHGS are most welcome to attend the evening service at Halifax Minster which commences at 7.15pm. The Parents' Association will be serving refreshments at the end of the service.

Performing Arts

First Bow: First Bow Performances will take place on 23rd and 24th January 2019. Performing Arts Showcase and Matilda: 20th and 21st March 2019.

If any parents would like to know more about performing arts opportunities at NHGS please contact Mr Marsh by email: g.marsh@nhgs.co.uk

End of Term Concert

Preparations are underway for the end of term concert, which will take place during the last week of term. Letter to follow, donations welcome.

AN INTERVIEW WITH LISA COCKROFT

*Lisa is a former NHGS student, and now runs Pepper Dog Design - which offers full graphic design and web design services. **Lisa is judging the Christmas card competition.***

When did you attend North Halifax Grammar School?

I attended from 1990-1997.

Which subjects did you study here?

I studied all the mainstream subjects with Geography and RE chosen as my options at GCSE. I completed A-Levels in Design & Technology, English Language and General Studies.

Do you have any memories you would like to share?

I have a lot of wonderful memories from my time at NHGS. Most memorably the trips to London and Amsterdam as part of the Design and Technology course. My overall memory of NHGS is that it was a very happy time for me and I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the school.

Who were your favourite teachers, and why?

I have fond memories of Mr Edwards (taught Latin). Even though I was absolutely useless at Latin, I really enjoyed the classes as he always injected fun into the learning process and he had a special gift for engaging with the pupils and inspiring learning. Mr Wood taught my English language A-level and I always looked forward to his classes in the draughty portacabin! Mr Wood was always full of enthusiasm and had the ability to get his point across by story-telling, giving a really relaxed feel to the classes with lots of laughter. My mentor and the person who inspired my own career is Mr Allen. I knew from the age of about 14 that I wanted to be a graphic designer. Mr Allen supported me with everything I did and always had time to encourage, teach and go the extra mile. Even after all this time we have kept in touch and he's always shown an interest in my career and business.

What did you do after leaving NHGS?

After I completed my A-Levels at NHGS I was accepted into the University of Huddersfield to study Creative Imaging. This was a four year Sandwich course and I achieved a 2:1 (Hons) degree. As part of the sandwich course, I worked for a software company in Wakefield as their in-house designer. When I completed my degree I was fortunate enough to be offered a full time position with them and I worked there for four years. I decided that I wanted to move away from the in-house designer role and into a design agency

environment. I worked for Brainstorm Design in Leeds for 8 years where I worked my way up to Senior Designer. During my maternity leave with my second child, I decided that it was time for a more work/life balance and that's when I made the decision to not return to my job and establish Pepperdog Design. Pepperdog has now been successfully running since 2012 and I have never looked back!

Our aim is to equip students with skills, and expose them to experiences that prepare them for life after NHGS - what kind of extra-curricular activities were particularly useful for you in your life and career since leaving?

I was a member of the Air Training Corps from the age of 13 to 18. My experience with them has been invaluable and instilled in me a sense of discipline, self-worth and a respect for authority. I was proud to complete my Gold Duke of Edinburgh award during my time with the ATC and gained a lot of skills such as marksmanship and general adventure training knowledge including a four day expedition in Bavaria. In addition to these I was very busy with other activities including Judo (I was part of the National team), Roller Hockey and Rock Climbing - all whilst holding down several part-time jobs from the age of 14. Doing as much as you can and getting involved in as many extra-curricular activities as possible will help to develop life skills and build up your network of contacts.

What advice would you give to NHGS students looking for a career in design?

Start a network base and add solid 'real' work to your portfolio. You can build up a portfolio of 'real' commercial work by offering design services to charities. Also, work experience is invaluable, and I would suggest try to get as many placements as you can, even if it's only for one or two days at a time. These projects and placements could potentially lead to paid work.

Put together your best pieces in a simple yet elegant PDF and email it to all those companies or agencies that you're interested in. Always find out the name of the person you are directing your email to and follow up with a telephone call. One final piece of advice: keep moving forward. Keep up your task of calling, emailing or whatever you do on a constant basis. Don't take rejection personally. A rejection today could land you a job tomorrow or a new client further on.

NHGS PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWS OCTOBER 2018

Last academic year we were able to fund over £14,000 worth of requests from school.
With your help this is what the PA funded:

£12,000	Refurbishment of the 6th form common room
£670	Hockey kit and sports timer
£650	Infra-red Canon camera equipment
£500	New tents for Yr 9 camp
£149	Junior Masterchef prizes
£139	Rocketry competition
£123	Bowling trip
£100	Art Department for Hamper Raffle



Thank you everyone – but the requests are coming in fast and we need your continued support to make 2018/19 even better! In 2018/19 we are aiming to raise £10k towards the refurbishment of the Tech corridor but we can't do it without your help.

Can you help by supporting the NHGS PA events and activities?

HAMPER RAFFLE CHRISTMAS FAYRE



Last year's Hamper Raffle and Christmas Fayre both smashed previous records but can we do even better? **Please help your child to sell their Hamper Raffle tickets** when they arrive after half term and also come along or support the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 1st December with donations. *(See our Fayre page for details of how you can help.)*

PERFORMING ARTS, MUSIC & PARENTS' CONSULTATION EVENINGS

At last year's school events your generous donations and purchases of drinks and snacks **helped us to raise over £1,500**. Please continue to support the PA refreshments stalls at the various school events – every biscuit and cuppa helps!

OVERSEAS COINS & NOTES



We are still collecting and our bucket in school reception is waiting for any notes or coins such as pesetas, rupees or euros you have left over from your holidays. **All donations including old £1 coins gratefully received.**

EASYFUNDRAISING



Did you know that you can raise money for NHGSPA while you shop. It is easy to do and at no extra cost to you! Please support North Halifax Grammar School Parents' Association through Easyfundraising:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

PA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Come and join us at one of our meetings usually on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in school. All welcome, just let us know beforehand so we can look out for you.

And if you fancy being more active, we are still looking for a Secretary and Chair so please get in touch.



A PLEA FOR HELP.....

We always welcome helpers and are looking for folks to help us make our events even better. We currently need support with:

- communications and marketing
- setting up our new Prize Draw
- serving refreshments at school events
- Matched Funding and Charity Gift Aid coordination
- and much more...!

Do get in touch and join our team to have some fun whilst raising much needed funds for all the children in school.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Please follow us on Facebook. It's a way to connect with other parents as well as keeping in touch with our activities. Our Facebook group is also a great way to find answers to those school related questions as other parents may just know the answer!



Facebook: Search for North Halifax Grammar School Parents' Association
(<http://www.facebook.com/groups/1414873465412640>)



Twitter @NHGSPA

Website: nhgspa.org.uk



E-mail: contact@nhgspa.org.uk

WELCOME NEW STAFF

As well as new students and parents we also welcome the following staff who have joined or will be joining the school this term:

Ms J Mumby – Head of Design & Technology
Mr S Tansey – Head of PE (maternity cover)
Mrs S Heaton – Teacher of PE
Miss C Hargreaves – Teacher of Art (maternity cover)
Ms A Naseer – Teacher of Psychology (maternity cover)
Mr C Webb – Teacher of Business Studies & Economics
Mrs S Pollard – Teacher of Mathematics
Mr S Kazmi – Teacher of Biology (fixed term)
Miss H Youssefbeygi – Teacher of Food Technology
Miss J Bowerman – Teacher of Geography
Miss I Proctor – Teacher of English
Miss B Millar – Teacher of MFL
Mrs N Platt – Business Development & Marketing Officer
Mr T Wade – Design & Technology Technician
Ms J Scrimshaw – General Kitchen Assistant
Mrs C Bale - Cleaner
Mrs A Green – Teacher of Psychology
Miss E Foster – IT Technician (Nov '18)
Miss C Trail – Teacher of Mathematics (Jan '19)

There have also been changes in the pastoral and leadership teams and these changes are as follows:

Miss L Brooke – Year Group Leader Y8
Mrs J Finnett – 2nd in Mathematics
Mr D Kennedy – Assistant Vice Principal, Director of Student Experience
Miss A Kent – Assistant Vice Principal, Director of Learning
Mrs H Ablewhite – Assistant Vice Principal, Director of Learning
Mrs G Quigley – Assistant Vice Principal, Director of Sixth Form
Mrs J Alexander – Assistant Vice Principal, Director of SEND and SENDCo
Mr D Crossland – Vice Principal, Curriculum and Assessment
Mrs E McLeod & Mrs N Terry – ITE & NQT Co-ordinator
Mrs A Kay – Lead Teacher
Mrs V Longbottom – Lead Teacher

Mrs V Harrison-Law – Lead Teacher
Mrs R Ghelichi-Winstanley – Head of Social Studies (maternity cover)
Miss C Lightfoot – Head of Art (maternity cover)

Some staff have also undertaken permanent responsibilities from this term:

Mr J Downing – Sixth Form Year Group Leader
Miss S Rigby – Sixth Form Enrichment Co-ordinator

We also wish to thank the following members of staff for all their support and hard work in their time at NHGS and wish them all the very best as they leave either due to retirement or to go on to pastures new:

Miss S Brown – Teacher of Media
Miss J Rolph – Teacher of MFL
Mrs C Hunt – Teacher of Food Technology
Mr C Short – Teacher of PE
Mrs B Ward – Teacher of Mathematics
Mr A Ward – Teacher of Geography
Mr A McLoughlin – Teacher of Design & Technology
Mr S Croft – Teacher of English
Miss A Robson – Teacher of MFL
Mr P Jervis – Vice Principal and Teacher of Business Studies & Economics
Mr M Illingworth – Design & Technology Technician
Mrs A Blagbrough – Finance Assistant
Mr M Asad – IT Technician
Mr R Malik – Teacher of Mathematics

Help Required



The Parents' Association needs your help with making this year's Christmas Fayre a success. Last year was fabulous, and this year we want it to be even better. However, we can't do it without your help.

We need volunteers to help run the PA stalls and make cakes for the Cake Stall. We also need donations of bottles for the bottle tombola (all bottles accepted – soft drinks, alcohol, toiletries) and prizes for the Grand Raffle and game stalls. We've been very lucky in the past with some fabulous donations of vouchers, hampers and gifts from NHGS families' workplaces, so if you know of a business which you think would be willing to donate, please let us know.

If you are able to pitch in in any way, either on the day (including clearing up afterwards), or setting up on the Friday afternoon beforehand, please either complete the slip below and hand it in to Reception at School, or just email the PA at contact@nhgspa.org.uk and let us know how you can help.

Christmas Fayre Saturday 1st December 2018

Baking / PA Stall Volunteers

Name

Tel. No

Email

Item(s) to be baked:

Please send cakes etc. to school on Friday 30th November.

I can donate bottles ☐ Please send soft drinks and toiletries to school w/c Nov 26th. Donations of alcohol can be left with a member of the PA at the music concert on 21st November or the Year 13 Parents' Evening on 22nd November, or handed to Reception by an adult in the w/c 26th November.

I can help set up or clear up, or on one of the PA Stalls ☐ . Between 9.30am-3pm on Saturday 1st December.

I am available at to help at am/pm

Other ways I can help:

.....

Name of student contact: Form:

Please return the completed slip to Mrs Liz Fiddaman c/o Mrs N Platt at school

All data will be processed in accordance with our Privacy Policy, which can be found on our website at nhgspa.org.uk/privacy-policy