



# NHGS Newsletter

## 2019/20 - Issue 1

### Christmas

It has been a very hectic last week at NHGS as we have fitted in a lot of activities alongside our routine lessons and homework. Monday night saw the usual end of term reward disco at Atik, on Tuesday we were at Halifax Minster (many of us twice!), on Wednesday we had the Christmas Dash and Turkey Trot and the school's Leadership Team served 1,000 or so Christmas dinners (it felt like more!) and on Thursday staff and students displayed all sorts of talents in the end-of-term concerts. In many ways, this last week has shown NHGS at its best - amazing music, amazing behaviour and amazing food all served up by various members of our community. Thank you to everybody who took part and huge congratulations for the standards achieved. Mrs Pegg and Mr Crawford deserve a special mention in dispatches for their contributions. However you celebrate Christmas or decide to spend your holiday, I wish all students, all parents and all staff a happy and peaceful time and look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 6th January, ready to make 2020 a year when we perfectly realise our vision! (For my other job, I write cracker jokes)... My very best wishes to you all. **Mr Fisher.**





## Message from the Chair of the Governance Board Educational (mostly) musings and ramblings



In my last contribution to the newsletter, I explained how the Governance Board was constituted, its membership, and something about the work we do. On this occasion I want to focus a little more on the phrase, 'Living to Learn, Learning to Live', or to put it another way, helping students to make progress and achieve their learning potential, whilst at the same time developing their knowledge, skills and attributes to navigate whatever life may throw at them, with confidence.

Developing the whole person is a complex and challenging process for all concerned, but there is plenty of evidence that here at NHGS we get it right most of the time. For example, we regularly commission highly skilled professional advice from independent advisers to monitor the quality and effectiveness of what we do. Here are some comments from their latest reports:

- Leaders are self-reflective and highly responsive to suggestions for improvement;
- Leaders at all levels are developing an ambitious curriculum intent;
- The school is ahead of the game (in developing its new curriculum);
- The provision for pupils' personal development and well-being is exemplary;
- High levels of challenge (in teaching);
- Exemplary attitudes to learning (students).

But it is the first part of our vision statement that I want to focus on: 'NHGS is the school that everyone wishes they went to'. NHGS is a family of many parts. I am writing this message having just been to the Christmas Fayre. What a shining example to students and parents of what can be achieved when many hands do their bit for the good of all. There was laughter, singing, food a plenty, hampers to win, and presents to buy!

Another unforgettable part of our family is the showcasing of student talent, whether it is through being world rocket champions, thinking of others through charity events, sporting achievements, sixth formers performing Oscar Wilde's 'An Ideal Husband' or the many musical concerts and performances. All of these things contributing in their own way to 'Learning to Live'.

The highlight of my year is only a few days away; the annual Carol Concert in Halifax Minster. I am constantly amazed at the wealth of talent, effort and skill on display year on year. A few days after last year's concert I went to the Halle Orchestra's Carol Concert in Manchester. Apart from the senior Halle choir, there were two junior choirs: the Halle's own and a Greater Manchester Regional choir. Despite all their resources, and in my lowly musical opinion, they were outshone for innovative content and musical skill by our very own students.

None of these things come about without the dedication and sheer hard work of many staff over long periods of time, for which we should all be grateful.

**Living to Learn, Learning to Live? Undoubtedly here at NHGS.**

Living to Learn | Learning to Live



**Cake donations - thank you!  
Parents' Association  
Christmas Fayre 2019**



**'An Ideal Husband'  
Cast & Crew  
Photograph by Ewan Horrocks**



**Carol Service 2018  
Mrs Pegg and the choir  
Photograph by Mr Allen**

## And finally.....'Tales from an inspector's notebook'



In the days before Ofsted, HMI (Her Majesty's Inspectors) were much fewer in number, and schools were lucky (or unlucky!) to be visited from one year to the next. Rumours would abound about what they did and what they would expect to find, especially in lessons.

And so it was that I visited a very large Junior school in the Manchester area to inspect the quality of science work. I planned to observe some Year 3 and 4 lessons in the morning and older children in the afternoon. The kindest evaluation of the morning's lessons would be 'undistinguished'!

Therefore I was looking forward to

some improvement in the afternoon. I began with the oldest children in Year 6. I entered the class and sat at the back waiting for the teacher to begin. All around the sides of the classroom were tables set out with resources to conduct experiments: paper, card, planks of wood, wire, string, stop watches, toy cars, and so on. This looked promising until I noticed that the pupils were also fascinated by the array of resources.

The lesson began and the teacher explained that they would be devising their own investigations into structures and forces.

Firstly, they should get into groups and allocate responsibilities amongst themselves, then carry out their investigation and record their findings. It soon became clear they were not used to this way of working. They argued over who should do what, couldn't work out what resources were needed and importantly were unsure of what they were trying to find out. Inevitably more and more hands went up trying to get help from the teacher, who by this time was covered in perspiration, clearly aware of the surrounding chaos.

Trying to avoid further embarrassment for the poor teacher I decided to help out with some of the groups, during which time I asked the pupils if they enjoyed investigations. They replied, 'It's the first time we've done them. We usually write stuff from the board in our workbooks.(!!) The message here is.....Beware of children talking to HMI; they (the children) always tell the truth!

**Roger Hartley, Chair of the Governance Board**



## Year 8 France Trip - Activities Week 2019



2019 was a different year to our normal overseas residential. Due to our large numbers there was no choice but to go in search of new accommodation, saying a sad farewell to the Chateau in Normandy where we had stayed at **for 23 years.**



Our new location is now in the St. Omer region of France, close to the border with Belgium. This new location has an emphasis on WW1 history, which was concentrated in these areas. Other visits on the trip allowed students to practice their French, take in the local culture and have fun, all whilst making lasting memories and friendships.



On the first full day we departed to the town of Ypres in Belgium to visit to the Flanders Field Museum and enjoy free time in the square.



Part of the day involved visits to real WW1 trenches and battlefields.



With no time to go back to the chateau, students had a meal in a restaurant in Ypres and then onto the Last Post Ceremony under the Menin Gate. A long but fun day!



A more leisurely day involved visits to the Passchendaele Museum and the Tyne Cot, Langemark and Essex Farm Cemeteries. Pupils also had the chance to stock up on supplies from the hypermarket.

Our day in Bruges was another busy day. A walking tour, Historium Museum visit, canal cruise and free time exploring, allowed students to take in the beauty that is Bruges.



Our final full day of activities took us to the coast, Boulogne sur Mer. Students enjoyed a market visit, trying fresh produce, exploring the town trail and then onto the beach for some fun and games in the sun.



Students enjoyed continental breakfasts, filling packed lunches and a buffet style evening (including snails) meal to give them the energy on their fun filled days.

As always, we keep to tradition at NHGS and our final night included fancy dress and a disco, where pupils were also given a variety of coach awards to celebrate the trip.

A big thanks goes to those who worked on the large task of organising the trip in a new location and for the school staff, teaching and support, who made the trip possible. We hope to build on the successful trip and look forward to St Omer 2020!

**Mr C. Walker**  
**Trip Leader for St Omer 2020**

## Royal Navy Chefs



The morning with the Navy Chefs was FANTASTIC and we will definitely, without a doubt, be asking them to come in again ...and again!

The session started with a demonstration from the Navy Chefs in which they linked this to the GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition specification, coursework and talk about how you could incorporate the 12 key skills into your dishes with different ingredients and cooking methods. The Navy Chefs then discussed what the navy do, personal experiences, the places they had travelled and career options including apprenticeships, pay, opportunities and progression.

The Navy Chefs then organised a table piled with fresh ingredients, and students were separated into groups and given a small amount of time to plan 2 dishes. Students then came to collect their ingredients and were given an hour to create their dishes thinking about key skills, cooking methods, component parts and presentation. (All linked to the GCSE Spec.) Once their time was up, their food was constructively judged and students could dig in!



The experience that students got yesterday was INVALUABLE! They got an insight into Navy life, career options, freedom to be imaginative and creative in their dishes, had to think on the spot and were engaged throughout.

All students represented the school impeccably!

The Royal Navy Chefs came and spent 3 hours in school and brought all ingredients with them- we didn't have to pay anything!





## Year 11 Work Experience

**We would like to say a massive “Thank You” to all the employers who welcomed our students into their companies from 30<sup>th</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019.**

Abbey Park Academy, Account 4 It, Active Calderdale - Calderdale Council, AECOM, Aflex Hose, Age UK Calderdale & Kirklees, AJM Drives, All Saints J&I School, Andrew Walker Equestrian Services, Arnold Laver, AT Graphics, Baxendale Vanzie Solicitors, Beckfoot Heaton Primary School, Beech Hill J&I School, Bents Farm Day Nursery, Biotronick UK, Blackhall Engineering, Borg Warner Limited, Boulevard Pharmacy, Bradford Community Foundation, Briggs Signs and Graphics Ltd, Brighter Financial Service Ltd, Broadway House Chambers, Brook Pharmacy, Browns Café, Burnley Road Academy, Calrec, Clayton Village Primary School, Clean at last, Copley Primary School, Covance Labs, Cullingworth Village Primary School, D Hall Electrical Services LTD, Different PR, Dog and Gun Oxenhope, Drystone Radio Station, Easter Ross Vets, Eureka! The National Children's Museum, Fairlea Auto Salvage Ltd, Fan System Group Ltd, Firth Cycles, Five Talents, Football Development - Shay Stadium, Foxhill Primary School, Giant Halifax, Greenside Dental Care, Hebden Royd Junior School, Heptonstall J, I & N School, Heritage Prams, Hermes Parcelnet Limited, Hill Top CE Primary School, Hird and Partners Vets, Hive, Hoops-a-daisy, Huddersfield Town Football Club, ICS - Moving offices, Instyle Home Limited, IOU Theatre, J C Bates and Sons Ltd, Jewells Hairdressers, JLA, JN Bentley, Keighley Library, King Cross Pharmacy, KS Hunjan Halifax and Bradford, League Publications Ltd, Leeds United Football Club, Lees Primary School, Lepton & Kirkheaton Surgeries, Leslie Hutt Architects, Lidget Green, Primary School, Life Church, Lightcliffe CE Primary School, Lloyds Banking Group - Trinity Road, Lloyds Banking Group - Copley Data Centre, Manchester Metropolitan University, Margaret McMillan Children's Centre, Marks and Spencer Halifax, Marshall Construction (West Yorkshire Ltd), Mary Mahon Solicitor, Mazars, McGee Group Ltd, Medichem, Northolme Ltd, Micro-search Laboratories Ltd, Midnight Pharmacy, Mixenden Activity Centre, Mooii Photography, Music for the Many, NBLC, Northowram Primary School, Overgate Hospice, Partners in Performance, Peter David Properties, Pladis Global - McVities, Real Homes in Real Spain, Reevy Hill Primary School, Reform Radio, Reliance Precision Limited, Resdev, Salon 117, Savile Park Primary School, Selbie Opticians, Shade School, Shay Stadium Community Football, Shelf Junior & Infant School, Shelf Pharmacy, Simprint, Snowflake Media Ltd, Specsavers Brighouse, St Chads C of E Primary School, St Patricks Roman Catholic School, Stanbury Village School, Stantec, Swimrite Leisure, The Ark Experience, The Artworks, The Bigger Boat, The Cake Emporium, The Greetland Academy, The Piece Hall, The Valley Group, Torrington Orthopaedics, Tower House Hotel, Town Hall Dental, TSB - Keighley Branch, UCLAN, Universal Live, University of Bradford, Victoria Theatre - Calderdale MBC, Walsden St Peters Primary School, Wilkinson Woodward, WM Morrisons Supermarkets - Head Office, Yates Arden, Yorkshire Cat Rescue - Keighley, Your Event Solutions!

**The students had some wonderful experiences, some of which are included below:**

### Harley went to Reliance Precision Limited

**Placement:** Harley received positive feedback from all of the Team Leaders with whom he spent time with over the last week. He gained valuable experience working in a range of departments from the Training School where he got to grips using the Solid Works CAD Package, a variety of manufacturing disciplines and finally the Clean Room Assembly dep't where he was able to observe the strict procedures required to build high-end scientific equipment.

It is worth noting that Harley had a difficult commute to the workplace during his work experience week from Sowerby Bridge to the other side of Huddersfield but was always very punctual and presented himself well.

Harley: During my Work Experience, I really enjoyed my time there. I found working on the different machines very interesting and it was a good insight on an engineering workplace as I am interested in pursuing engineering as a career.



### Sophia went to The Artworks

**Placement:** Sophia has helped out with a postcard competition we had run by scanning all the entries into the PC. She has done printing, photography, social media (with an Instagram takeover), met directors and learned about their career path. She has integrated really well, especially with a student from University.

Sophia: I did research to find my placement. I joined in with typography, drawing and printing. I would like to be an artist and am exploring my post 16 and career options. I would like to be a Graphic Artist and am keeping my options open.

### Jack went to The Fan System Group



## Year 11 Work Experience continued

### Sam went to Overgate Hospice:

Placement: Sam was one of the best work experience students we have ever had! He was so helpful, willing to do anything that was asked of him, no matter how boring the task was he was given (he just laughed it off) and asked loads of questions about each task, which everyone he worked with has commented on. He made a very good first impression with everyone. It's a shame he wants to study medicine – I would love him to work for me! He was efficient, fast and accurate and he has expressed an interest in being a volunteer if we manage to open a shop in Hipperholme.

Sam: Throughout work experience I have learned many skills as well as how a charity organisation functions. I enjoyed it as it was something different and I had a lot of variety throughout my week. This has helped me with my career as it has allowed me to narrow down my choices on what I want to do.

### Ben went to The Bigger Boat

Placement: The best students we've had have been the ones who pick things up quickly, ask questions and have the ability to problem solve/think for themselves. We've probably had about 6 or 7 students over the last 10 years and for only 2 of them have we offered to give them more experience after their GCSEs. I'm pleased to say Ben is one of those two, we'd be happy to have him come back anytime. He was given some loose guidance to start learning web development initially. His ability to learn and ask questions of the other developers meant he was able to get real value out of his week. We set him to work building his own web page and he was off, he did fantastic, exactly the right kind of mindset to be a web developer. He was even working on his project at home, because he loved learning... whatever he decides to do in the future, with an attitude like that, he will smash it.

Ben also wrote a blog for our website

[www.thebiggerboat.co.uk/ben-joins-tbb-work-experience/](http://www.thebiggerboat.co.uk/ben-joins-tbb-work-experience/)

His web page is here

<http://thebiggerboat.co.uk/ben/ad.html>

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The feedback received this year has again been overwhelmingly positive, with lots of placements saying they wished they could keep the student longer (and students saying they wanted to stay on their placement longer). This has resulted in a number of students being offered either part time employment or apprenticeships and graduate schemes in the future.

**Good luck to all students with your careers, we cannot wait to see what the future has in store for you.**

**We would like to receive feedback from parents. If you would like to drop us a line at [l.manley@nhgs.co.uk](mailto:l.manley@nhgs.co.uk) it would be appreciated.**

# Haworth 2019

We asked 4 students for their feedback on the residential.

I really enjoyed as it brought us together, especially with our roommates. (Gracie, 7.6)

We had to work in teams of two and solve problems like: Cross the Lava Pit or The Blind Maze or The Spider's Web. (Scarlett, 7.2)

We had so much fun during the Evening Activities. The 'Hands' were the best. We had to decorate the hands and then write in worries about starting at NHGS and then had to write if the worry had gone away or not and, if so, why it had gone away. (Scarlett 7.2)

Haworth was spectacular! (Hannah, 7.3)

Bedtimes were very crazy and everyone stayed up a while after they were meant to get to sleep! (Seb, 7.6)

We practised our life skills by having to make our own beds (Gracie, 7.6)

In the chocolate shop, we danced and sung a catchy chocolate themed song, just like Charlie & The Chocolate Factory (Hannah, 7.3)

The second day started with an early morning start to go on a treasure hunt around the picturesque village of Haworth. We went all over Haworth, up and down streets and we went to a variety of places from churches to shops and even the train station. (Hannah, 7.3)

We swept out the sweet-shop ..... everyone filled their pockets and mouths with the delicious sweets. (Hannah, 7.3)

A big THANK YOU to staff and Sixth Form Prefects for supporting the Residential







## "An Ideal Husband" - NHGS Production, November 2019

### Photographs by Ewan Horrocks



Wilde himself declared that he was a "dreamer" and this play began as the dream of Aron West, who was inspired by seeing a screened version of the stage play. Aron West set about abridging and editing the text of the play and proposed the idea to his fellow Literature A Level students at NHGS. The prospect was met with enthusiasm - and unlike many dreams which never translate to reality - West's determination and the true team effort of his peers led to an impressive production which was performed at NHGS this week to enthusiastic audiences.

Wilde claimed "If you want to tell people the truth, make them laugh," and the humour in this play highlights Wilde's truths about the over-importance of reputation, the hypocrisy inherent in such a world and, perhaps most pertinently for Wilde, the necessity for honesty in human relationships. West's adaptation and production nicely highlighted the play's concerns with the pressures of idealism and its dangers without losing any of the humour. Warm laughter from the audience punctuated the production.

It was hard not to sympathise with Charlie Kitson's Sir Robert Chiltern, who was a far cry from the "sordid rogue" of Wilde's first production. Kitson brought a sense of earnest desperation to the character, held up by the world and his wife as an ideal. His anguish as he was "found out", his sincerity in his conversations with his friend Goring, and the regretful tone with which he considered the "sins" of his youth and the temptations of the "gospel of gold" made one hope that he could indeed escape his past. His wife, the high-minded Gertrude, was played regally by Lizzie Sharratt who conveyed Gertrude's lofty idealism, and steely goodness to perfection. The pressure exerted on her husband that he should be "pure" and "noble" or their lives "must part" prevent him from telling her the truth. The certainty with which she declares that her husband is incapable of doing a "foolish" or a "wrong" thing - and her declaration that "love gives on an instinct is heavily ironic. Before the play is out, she has to learn that high ideals are all very well but it is not possible to always live up to them.

The femme fatale of the play, the opportunistic Mrs Cheveley was played by Jenna Pinkney with an amused twinkle in her eye nicely conveying the sense of enjoyment of the character as she set about seeking her own gain whilst puncturing the hypocrisy of the English aristocratic classes. Her lack of shame at her actions as she declares that "morality is merely the attitude we adopt towards people we dislike", her delight as she declared she had a "perfect passion for listening at keyholes", and the pleasure in her own acerbic wittiness provided many laughs from the audience - whilst also provoking some serious thought about our own moral compasses and the nature of our political landscape.



## "An Ideal Husband" - NHGS Production, November 2019 continued

### Photographs by Ewan Horrocks



Humour was also provided by the effervescent dandy, Lord Goring, played by Mackenzie Galbraith whose concern with his buttonhole and appearance and his professed desire to avoid being "serious" and to remain "trivial" belie the fact that his philosophy provides the moral heart of the play - "that love and life cannot be lived without much charity." The relationship with his father, Lord Caversham (played by Rory Evans) was beautifully presented with Galbraith nicely provoking his father by fussing with his clothing, and Evans applying just the right amount of contempt and frustration with his errant son - and the modern world as a whole. An appealing Mabel, played by Olivia Ingham, and her reactions to Goring also provided much laughter as she professed more interest in Lady Caversham's bonnets than in his advances.

Perhaps the funniest moments of the play were provided by the impassive servants of the piece both played by Tom Crisp - whose repeated response of the deadpan "yes, my Lord" to Goring's witterings created much laughter in the audience. The physical presence of the imposing butler was a constant reminder of the treatment of the lower classes of the era by characters such as Goring, and also the wealthy Lady Basil don (Abianne Johnson) and the marvellously supercilious Lord Markby (Tom Boom). The costumes and settings created deftly the sense of wealth and privilege the characters moved in - and perhaps also how much they might have to lose.

Throughout the play, we hear the dangers of idealism: in the anguish of Sir Robert as he asks why men must be put on such "monstrous pedestals"; in the repeated appeals for forgiving others for their sins; and in the statements about the importance of loving unconditionally for it is the "imperfect and not the perfect who have most need of love". It is hard not to hear Wilde's personal pleas coming through whose double-life at the time was shortly to be exposed.

Sometimes producers choose to cut the end of this play, leaving us in a world of uncertainty and doubt. But in this production, all's well that ends well. The increased compassion conveyed by Sharratt's Gertrude, and Kitson's palpable relief as she reassured Sir Robert that she felt for him "love and only love", ended the play with the audience smiling as they applauded. And feeling absolutely over-awed that a group of English students, cast and crew, could produce such an accomplished and entertaining theatrical experience for us all to enjoy.

A L Kent

## Fine Arts Trip to Manchester



In November the Year 11 Fine Artists went on a trip to Manchester to gather research for their Natural Forms coursework.

The first stop was the Manchester Museum to complete an Artist workshop, in which students produced a series of observational drawings from the specimens collection. The Artist was really encouraging and pushed everyone to try drawing in experimental ways, which was really beneficial to the students.

Following the workshop, we had some free time to explore the many natural forms that the museum has on display.

After lunch we headed to the Whitworth Gallery to explore the work of different Artists. Students left with a whole new range of drawing techniques mastered and plenty of fresh ideas for their work.

**Miss Johnston**





## Make it in Manufacturing

The event was a promotion of relatively local manufacturers held at the Shay stadium in Halifax. Many students from different schools attended the venue to see a variety of companies showcase what they do and how young people can get involved. There were many brands there explaining what they made, ranging from off-road bikes to a robotic arm that can be controlled digitally. We were also told what GCSE's we would need if we wanted to pursue that line of work. It was really fun as you could try and assemble or use their product and get to see what benefits it would give to everyday life. My personal favourite was the A-safe company based in Elland. Their exhibit had a display of safety barriers and bollards that are used in all types of industries including airports, zoos and factories. We had to assemble a barrier from its basic components, and fix them together.

I think that the event was extremely beneficial as I now know lots of different job options and it was very interesting to see how their merchandise is used in different workplaces. **Beck, Year 9**



## Graphics GCSE, The Deep



On November 20th, twenty-one Year 11 Graphics students took a trip to The Deep. As well as the fascinating sealife to be explored, The Deep also hosts interesting examples of signage around the building including bold graphics displayed on acetate, graphics shone onto the floor using light, vinyl lettering and much more. It was a great exercise for the students to research corporate branding for their coursework.



In the morning, students were free to explore the sealife as well as analysing and photographing the use of Graphic Design within the Deep.



In the afternoon the students had time to draw some 'under the sea' artefacts to develop their observational drawing skills, working from primary source material.



The students behaved impeccably whilst there and the trip was enjoyed by students and staff alike.

## MFL Matters



### Year 7 Spelling Bee

The form competitions are already underway and winners from each form will then compete in the school competition.

NHGS students have always performed well enough to reach the regional competition and sometimes even the national competition. **Can we do so again this year?**



### Year 9 Translation Bee

Following on from the success of the Spelling Bee, all students in Year 9 have been competing to go forward to the school round of Translation Bee.

With the help of our A Level French students who do the testing, each Year 9 student has 1 minute to translate out loud as many correct phrases as they can with correct French pronunciation. **Pas facile!**



### European Translation Competition

On Thursday 21st November at 9am precisely, 5 Sixth Form students, each armed with a large bi-lingual dictionary, settled in to embark on a 2-hour translation set by the European Commission. Already confident from their success in a closely fought school round, Ellen (Year 12), Peter (Year 13), Mackenzie (Year 13) Scarlett (Year 13) and Eddie (Year 13) now found themselves competing with students from 72 other UK schools to prove they could be amongst the best young translators in the European Union. **Results are out early February 2020 with a trip to Brussels if they win.**



*'I really enjoyed the experience of Juvenes Translatores. It felt great to take part in a competition alongside thousands of other students from all over the Europe. I think that JT demonstrates the collective power of learning languages.'*

**Year 12 student**

*'I thought it was great and I enjoyed being able to use what we learn at school as part of our A Level course to help me construct a translation which was as natural and as fluent as I could make it. It was really hard but an enjoyable experience nonetheless.'*

**Year 13 student**

**These are excerpts from the French and Spanish texts. See how you do...**

C'est fait: je suis enfin dans ma colocation! Je partage un appart avec 2 étudiantes françaises, un copain qui travaille comme informaticien et une étudiante polonaise en biologie, qui fait un séjour Erasmus de 10 mois dans ma ville. Notre organisation laisse encore un peu à désirer (la vaisselle a tendance à s'accumuler dans l'évier, des trucs disparaissent mystérieusement du frigo...), mais dans l'ensemble, la cohabitation ne se passe pas trop mal et les soirées sont vraiment sympa.

Estaba en casa viendo la tele, en las noticias se han puesto a hablar de la contaminación por plásticos, que ha llegado a un punto crítico; del cambio climático, que parece estar afectando a la Tierra de forma irreversible... y me he rayado. ¡Es que no estoy haciendo nada al respecto! Bueno, ni yo ni la mayoría de nosotros. Mucho protestar de boquilla y liarnos a retuitear y compartir publicaciones en el Face, pero, a la hora de la verdad, nada de nada. ¿Y si aprovechásemos las vacaciones de otra forma? Llevamos todo el verano sin dar un palo al agua, y, ahora que somos jóvenes, que tenemos tiempo, podríamos invertir ese tiempo de forma más productiva.



## MFL Matters continued



### Education Perfect Northern Championships

Once again, all students were invited to take part in the latest Language Perfect competition which took place in early November. Over a single week, students devoted 180 hours to practising vocabulary, managing to answer nearly 85,000 questions between them. As well as working on French and Spanish, students managed to clock up scores in Japanese, Italian, Arabic, German, Chinese and Latin.

This magnificent effort from students propelled NHGS into the top dozen schools competing in England and a global ranking of 43<sup>rd</sup> in the Northern Hemisphere. Well done to all those who took part and congratulations particularly to the following students who must have devoted their whole week to doing Language Perfect!

**Silver Award** (2000+ points)  
Roshan 8.1 **overall winner**

**Bronze Award** (1000+ points)  
Haleema 8.2  
Harvey 8.6  
Elohor 10.4

**Credit Award** (500+ points)  
Liberty 7.6  
Asha 8.1  
Coll 10.5

**WELL DONE!**



### Open Evening

Un *grand merci* and *muchas gracias*

to our Sixth Form students for coming to Open Evening and talking to Year 11 students so enthusiastically about the A Level French and Spanish courses.

## Relationships and Sex Education

In June 2019 the government published new [statutory guidance for Relationship and Sex education and Health Education](#), which will be compulsory in all secondary schools from September 2020. This covers broad areas of particular relevance and concern to children and young people today. As a result of the new legal requirements we are in the process of updating our RSE school policy and curriculum. Students at NHGS will continue to have their PSHE curriculum delivered through RPSE in an age appropriate manner. Further information will be available in the next newsletter, however, if you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr Wood (VP) or Mrs Chadwick (Head of RPSE).

We will continue to ensure that every pupil is guaranteed a PSHE education that covers mental health and wellbeing; physical health (including healthy lifestyles and first aid); learning about safe, healthy relationships and sex (including understanding consent, negotiating life online, intimate relationships).

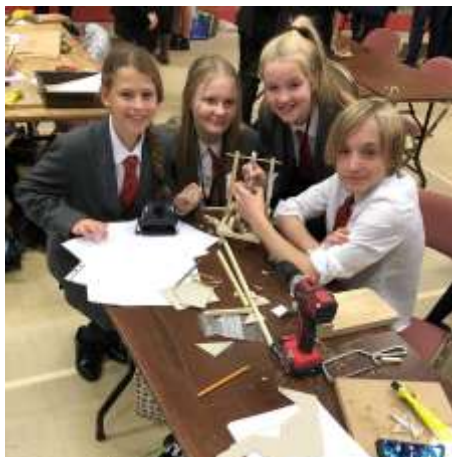
## Competitions

### DT Rotary Competition

Eight students from Year 8 and 9 took up the challenge to enter the Rotary Schools Technology Tournament 2020 in conjunction with A-Safe. Teamwork is an important component contributing to successful problem solving. Each team consisted of 4 students, a foundation and intermediate team.

The task was to produce a weight powered vehicle, being assessed in the following areas: planning and teamwork, design analysis, design development, realisation, their project portfolio and success at the testing stage.

Well done to all students who took part and a special congratulations to the foundation team who placed third out of many teams.





## Music

The music department extra-curricular provision continues to go from strength to strength.

We had a very successful concert at the end of November which featured all of our ensembles and as always the standard was very high. We are trying to encourage all students who receive a music lesson to join one of our ensembles as music really is more fun when you perform with other people. If you are an instrumentalist who receives lessons from outside of school then you are very welcome to come and play and rehearse. **Please see Mrs Pegg for more information.**

At the beginning of December the Choral Group and Concert Band played at the Heath Youth Music concert alongside Calder Valley Brass and Kim Atkinson's Fabulous Flutes.

The Festival of Christmas is always a highlight in the music department calendar and this year was one of our best ones. The students seem to raise the bar every year and this year's performances were truly beautiful. A record 93 strong choir filled the Halifax Minster with sounds of Christmas. They worked really hard and the recording that will be broadcast on Christmas Day via Phoenix FM is a really true reflection of what a talented group of musicians we manage to produce at NHGS.

2020 brings new opportunities – including a trip to Paris for the Rock Choir and Choral group where we will be performing in EuroDisney and at the Jardin de Luxembourg.

**Can I take this opportunity to thank all students, staff and parents who support the music department in anyway – your commitment is the reason we are so successful.**

**Mrs Pegg**  
**Head of Music**



**The Carol Service will be broadcast on Phoenix FM at 10AM Christmas Day 25th December.**

96.7 FM and online at [www.phoenixfm.co.uk](http://www.phoenixfm.co.uk)

The Sporting Review - First Term

WOW - The first term of sport at NHGS has been fast and furious. All our students who have trained and played since September have acquitted themselves with determination and endeavour.

Alongside the core sports of Football, Netball, Basketball, Rugby and Hockey we have had students competing in the English Schools Fell Running Championships, Calderdale Schools Swimming Gala and Cross Country Championships to Golf.

The PE department wish all students and parents a happy and peaceful Christmas.

			Fell Running
Calderdale Schools Swimming Gala			
			Cross-country



## The Sporting Review continued

### Basketball roundup 2019

Basketball has been running since September.

Tuesdays KS3 and Friday KS4/5. Numbers have been excellent at training.

### **Basketball Results**

U19 beat Crossley Heath GS 27-15

U15 beat Brooksbank and Hipperholme GS

U13 beat Brighouse 20-12



### Netball roundup 2019

Congratulations to the girls who were successfully selected for the following squads:

**West Yorkshire Netball:** Lexie (year 10), Isabel (year 10) and Florence (year 9)

**U15 Calderdale Netball:** Victory and Caitlin (year 10)

**U13 Calderdale Netball:** Phoebe, Madeline, Caitlin, Ava, Olivia & Mia (year 8)

### **Netball Results**

#### **Year 7**

V's Brighouse, won 9-0, player of the match Nia

V's Ryburn, won 13-9, player of the match Rebecca

#### **Year 8**

V's Brooksbank, won 15-2, players of the match Phoebe F & Olivia

V's Brighouse, won 16-1, player of the match Phoebe F

V's Ryburn, won 10-8, player of the match Madeline

#### **Year 9**

V's Brooksbank, lost 22-7, player of the match Amber

V's Brighouse, lost 7-6, players of the match Eesha & Chloe

#### **Year 10**

V's Brooksbank, lost 16-15, players of the match Victory & Caitlin

V's Brighouse, won 13-10, player of the match Victory

V's Ryburn, won 17-6, players of the match Eve, Isabel

#### **Year 11**

V's Brighouse, won 18-2, player of the match Kacey

V's Brooksbank, lost 13-43, player of the match Eleanor

V's Ryburn lost, 17-4, player of the match Eleanor

### Rugby round up 2019

Rugby training has been taking place every Thursday lunchtime since September. The training is open to Years 7-10 and develops elements of union and league together.

35-40 players have been turning up on a regular basis

### **Rugby Union Results**

Year 7 and 8 combined played in a competition at Old Rishworthians RUFC and performed brilliantly losing narrowly to both Trinity Academy Halifax and Rishworth School.

Year 8 and 9 combined won a thrilling game against Trinity Academy Halifax 40-35.

### **Yorkshire Schools RL games**

Year 10 Yorkshire School RL

NHGS v Sirius West, Hull  
Crofton Academy, Wakefield v NHGS

Year 9 have been entered into the Yorkshire School RL Plate competition and awaiting fixtures/dates.

## The Sporting Review continued

### NHGS Football fixtures 2019-2020 Calderdale League Fixtures/Results

Wk beg	School/ H or A	Yr groups	7s	8s	9s	10s
9.9.19	Ryburn A	7 - 10	L 5-3	L 4-1	L 4-1	D 2-2
16.9.19	Rastrick H	7-10	L 6-1	W 9-4	L 7-2	L 4-1
23.9.19	Brighouse A	7-10	L 6-1	W 5-2	L 4-2	W 3-2
30.9.19	Crossley Heath GS H	Year 9 only			L12-0	
7.10.19	Calder A	7-10	L 8-4	TBC	L 3-2	TBC
14.10.19	Lightcliffe H	7-10	L 7-12	5 December A	D 1-1	W 6-1
21.10.19	Brooksbank A	7-10	L 10-2	L 4-0	W 2-1	TBC
Oct Half Term						
4.11.19	Todmorden H	7-9	W 6-4	TBC	D 2-2	
11.11.19	TAH A	7-9	L 5-4	D 1-1		

### West Yorkshire Schools Cup fixtures

Year 8/U13 - Parkside Cullingworth - Lost 5-1

Year 10/U15 - St Bede's and St Joseph's Bradford - Won 4-1. Next Fixture against Brooksbank

Year 12/13 U19 - Boston Spa Leeds - won 3-1. Next fixture Roundhay Leeds.

### English Schools Cup fixtures

Year 8/U13 - Brooksbank, Calderdale - lost 4-1

Year 10/U15 - King James, Knarsborough - Lost 2-0

Year 12/13 U19 - Crompton House Oldham - lost 2-1

### Remaining fixtures to be played

**League** - Calder at Year 8 and 10, Todmorden at Year 8, Brooksbank at Year 10.

**Calderdale Schools FA cup** - Year 7 v Rastrick (H), Year 8 v TASB (A), Year 9 v Todmorden (A), Year 10 v Calder (H), Year 11 v Brighouse (A) and Year 12/13 v Lightcliffe (H).



## Interhouse Cross Country (A great day's running despite the freezing fog.)



## A message from the Chair of the Parents' Association

With the Festivities nearly upon us, I would like to thank everyone who has offered their help at our fundraising events in 2019, your support is greatly appreciated. Thanks also to the friends and families that make our efforts worthwhile.

We've had a profitable run pre-Christmas and have raised circa £10K which will help towards enhancing the students' time at NHGS. **Season's Greetings to you all and I wish everyone a happy and healthy 2020. Sue Smith**