



HASLINGDEN HIGHLIGHTS



A message from our Headteacher, Mr Jackson

Dear Parents

Welcome to the Christmas edition 2017 of Haslingden Highlights which tries to capture a flavour of life at our school and the many diverse activities and events that enrich the lives of our students. I fully understand how important examination results are and the skills students develop to prepare them for further study and the world of work, but feel that the opportunities we provide for our students to grow and develop holistically and to pursue their interests and talents, are of equal importance. I am proud to be the Headteacher of a school that values the education of the whole child and has a staff that regularly goes the extra mile in the best interest of its students.

GCSE and A Level courses are changing rapidly. Last year's Year 11 were the first cohort to sit reformed GCSEs in English Language, English Literature and maths. These examination courses were very different from their predecessors in terms of content, style and grades. These new exams are more academic in nature, have no coursework or controlled assessment and have significantly longer exams. In addition, they are graded 9 to 1 with grades 7, 8 and 9 corresponding to A and A*; grade 5 equivalent to a high C / low B (defined as a strong pass by the Department for Education) and a grade 4 equivalent to grade C (defined as a standard pass by the Department for Education). This summer Year 11 will sit reformed GCSEs in the vast majority of their subjects.

We were delighted with how well our students achieved in their GCSE examinations last summer: 75% of all students achieved a standard pass in both English and maths (national average 58.5%), and 51% achieved a strong pass (39.1% nationally). In addition 20 students achieved a grade 9 (equivalent to an A**) in English, maths or both. We were proud of the achievements of all our students irrespective of ability and many of them have opted to study with us in the Sixth Form and have made a fantastic start. All Level 3 post-16 courses from this September have been reformed and we were equally delighted with the excellent results achieved by our students in their A Level and vocational courses.

This is the time of year when the weather can get particularly bad and I would like to draw your attention to our emergency school closure letter which gives advice on how to find out if the school is closed and what your child should do if the school is forced to close early. These occasions are rare and the school makes every effort to remain open if it is safe to do so. The letter is on the school website and hard copies are available on request both from the main

school and student receptions. It is very important that we have an up to date email address for parental contacts, along with the other identified methods of communication, as you should receive an email in the event of any closure.

The term dates for 2018-2019 are available on the school website.

I really hope you get the same enjoyment from reading this edition of Highlights as we get from seeing the pleasure on the faces of our students. I am sure you would like to echo my thanks to our staff for giving up so much of their free time especially in these turbulent and challenging times within education.

I would like to thank all parents for their ongoing support of their children and our school.

I hope you have a fantastic Christmas and great New Year, and I look forward to seeing our students on Monday 8th January 2018.

Mark Jackson

Headteacher



Our school band is on the up!

Since forming a group earlier this year, our school band 'Thursday's Child' have been performing in lots of venues around the valley!

Comprising students Joe Charles, Kayleigh Mableson, India Flavell and Lewis Fielding, Thursday's Child have had gigs at The Woolpack, the Rochdale Festival of Performing Arts, Tor View's Shine Festival, Edenfield Fete, Glaston-Bury, Edgeside's The Fest and at Feniscowles Cricket Club and most recently at

Ramsbottom's Head to the Hills Festival!

The band has a current play list of 11 songs including covers of Amy Winehouse's 'Valerie', 'Hallelujah' by Leonard Cohen and Joni Mitchell's 'Big Yellow Taxi'.

Keep a look out for their upcoming gigs and check them out on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/haslingdenhighmusic>

**Swimmer
Mia in national health company campaign**

Year 8 student Mia Smith, an accomplished swimmer, is set to become one of the faces of national health product manufacturer Weleda.

Weleda UK launched a national search for athletes to promote its range of arnica products for sports people through a specialist film.

Filming took place in the River Derwent in Derbyshire and this was the first time Mia had tried open water river swimming.

Mia already swims competitively for Pioneer 79 at Accrington Academy but would now like to try open water swimming in Salford Quays, just for fun!

Keep up the good work, Mia!



Guest writer and Sixth Form student Erin Wilson describes in her own words her experience of a school trip to Auschwitz...

I have visited Auschwitz twice now, once on a school trip in 2015 and once for my 'Lessons from Auschwitz' Project, supported and organised by the Holocaust Education Trust, which took place this year.

I had studied the Holocaust, Hitler and Auschwitz beforehand, so of course I knew what I was letting myself in for - but that's the thing, I didn't.

You learn about the number of people killed, the types of people killed, how many camps there were and the dates they were active, but a teacher and a textbook can only tell you so much and you can't comprehend any of this however, until you are standing amidst the actual concentration camp where these atrocities took place. Only then do you realise that these people weren't just numbers on a report, or the numbers we recite every year on Holocaust Memorial Day, **they were people - they had lives.** On my trip to Auschwitz with the Holocaust Education Trust, we visited two out of three sections of the remaining camp - Auschwitz III; a former chemical factory is no longer standing after being bombed prior to the liberation of Auschwitz in 1945.

It feels odd to say that someone would enjoy visiting Auschwitz - why would you want to visit the site of a mass genocide? But for me, yes I did enjoy it, mainly for the historical value of visiting a place like Auschwitz. Although I think it's more understanding than enjoyment. But it's true that despite learning about Auschwitz and the Holocaust extensively, it does not feel 'real' until you are standing in the camp. There is something poignant about standing on the infamous train line and knowing that 70 years earlier people's fate was being decided by the flick of a wrist as they stood in the very same spot.

The day of our visit was 2nd November 2017. Aside from visiting the camp itself, we also visited the town of Auschwitz, for the purpose of historical context, as many Jews were living in the town before being deported to the concentration camp or other camps across Europe. To be specific, 58% of the population of Auschwitz were Jewish before the war started - now there are no Jews left. The last Jew to live in Auschwitz died in 2000.

After a brief visit to the town, we then made our way to the concentration camp. There are two sections to the camp: Auschwitz I, which was a work camp and Auschwitz-Birkenau which was the main extermination camp. At lunchtime, we were given a tour of Auschwitz I. The camp has now been converted into a museum and memorial to all those who were killed. Exhibits display the possessions of those killed, for example suitcases; glasses; pots and pans; shoes and striped uniforms.

In the afternoon, we had a tour of Auschwitz-Birkenau which is the main extermination camp. The first thing I noticed when standing in the camp was the size - you never realise how big Auschwitz is until you are standing there looking around. The remains of the camp today cover a third of the

land mass less than it covered when the camp was fully active during the early 1940s.

The last thing we were shown in Auschwitz was a memorial towards the rear of the camp at the end of the train line. This memorial displays 22 different plaques with the same quote in 22 different languages: "Forever let this place be a cry of despair and a warning to humanity, where the Nazis murdered about one and a half million men, women and children, mainly Jews from various countries of Europe. Auschwitz - Birkenau 1940-1945."

As the sun descended, we held a candlelit vigil surrounding the memorial where poems and written works from prisoners were read out by members of our group; we also listened to a speech by Rabbi Garston who had accompanied us on our visit. He spoke of the misunderstanding surrounding the Holocaust and how my generation now act as the voice for others to learn of the Holocaust.

On the day of our visit, we were asked to fill in a task sheet about our day, including how we felt and what we were expecting to see. The final question said, "If you were to meet a survivor of Auschwitz, how could you promise that such an event never occurs again?" Of course we cannot promise such a thing, but we can do something to try to prevent such an event happening again and the only thing that will aid in the prevention of another terrible event like this is knowledge. As many people as possible need to be educated about the atrocities that were carried out in these camps so that this never occurs again.



SPORT



Footballers Net County places

Students Lucy Valentine, Beth McDonald, Abby Clarke have all secured places in the Lancashire County Girls U14s team.

James helps gymnastic team to fourth place in national competition

Gymnast James Peacock helped his team to fourth place in the North West Election Trial in Wigan.

James is currently level 5 and managed to secure one of just four places in the team! He has been member of Bury Gymnastics Club for more than eight years.

James is also an accomplished trampolinist and for the last two years has represented the school in the national schools' final.

Well done James!



Lancashire final beckons for our U14s badminton players

Some of our talented badminton players will be representing Rossendale in the finals of the Lancashire U14s competition.

The boys played 16 games in total against each of the valley schools who took part.

The team are just waiting to hear when the final will be which will be held in Blackpool. Good luck, boys!



Our U14 girls team are now through to the last 16 of the English Schools FA cup! Good luck!

Our U16 netball team are semi-finalists

Our U16 netball team competed in the Lancashire round of the National Schools Netball competition. They won all their group games to reach the semi-finals against St Michaels' who they went on to beat to then reach the finals against All Hallows. Although beaten by this strong team, they have qualified for the next round in January. Well done girls!



Fantastic wins for trampolinists

Our talented trampolinists won first and second places for the third year running in the U14 Intermediate category. Max Constant (1st) and Jack Waters (2nd) have now qualified for the zonal round (North of England).

Our U14 team were also winners securing a place in the zonal team competition.



TRIPS & ACTIVITIES

Maths weekend makes sums fun

Three days on Anglesey were enjoyed by around 60 Year 8 students who took part in a host of maths-based activities in a bid to have fun whilst learning.

Raft building and zip lining were just two of the many team building activities enjoyed, and even those students who admitted maths isn't their favourite subject found it helped them when they got back to school. Well done, guys!



Our Sixth Form law students visited Manchester Crown Court to take part in a courtroom workshop and to sit in on some real trials. Hopefully the day helped map out potential careers for our aspiring lawyers!



Extreme readers reach new heights!

Readers from our new Year 7 cohort were awarded prizes for their efforts when challenged to read a book in an unusual location and take a photograph as evidence.

First prize was awarded to Eleanor Thomas who opted to read a chapter of The Hobbit from the bucket of a digger on a campsite in France!

Runner up was Daniel Wilson who was pictured reading in the middle of a BMX track in Derby!

Well done to everyone who took part.



Our A Level Geography students enjoyed a (freezing!) fieldtrip day in Coniston looking at the orientation of striations, analysing corries and measuring till characteristics. Thanks to Miss Samuelson for giving them the opportunity to put theory into practice in such beautiful surroundings.



A group of students have been selected to take part in an exciting sporting project involving the Manchester Tennis and Racquet Club. They had the opportunity to attend a training session and hopefully they will continue to be involved in the project.



CHARITY WORK

The final week of school leading up to the Christmas holiday is packed full of activities, but as always our students excelled themselves by thinking of others and taking part in a number of charitable events. On Monday 18th December we held our annual Christmas Party for the senior citizens of our community. Guests were treated to a buffet lunch, waited on by sixth form students, and were entertained by some of our very talented musicians. The same day, the Christmas themed 'Class2Grass' run also helped raise funds for Rossendale Hospice. Tuesday was hamper delivery day, when festive hampers filled with food and gifts collected by students from all year groups were delivered to local residents nominated by the students themselves. Cars full of

tinned goods and other food items were then delivered to The Raft Foundation, Rawtenstall's food bank charity and to the Maundy Relief drop-in centre in Accrington. Sixth Form students also collected rucksacks, sleeping bags and toiletries which were donated to homelessness charity Coffee4Craig. On Wednesday and Thursday students and staff were treated to a variety of entertainment in our annual Xmas Factor competition and money raised from this event along with students' donations from non-uniform day will be supporting Emmeline's Pantry Parlour, a welfare and food bank charity. What a fantastic end to a great term! Merry Christmas everyone!



Skydiving Molly raised more than £1,000 for the Ronald McDonald charity.

has ever done in her life and would do it again in a heartbeat.

A level student Molly Blake decided to take part in a parachute jump to raise money in memory of Matthew Densfield, former student and family friend.

Both Molly's parents and the parents of Matthew, along with other members of Molly's family, went along to lend their support.

Molly absolutely loved the experience claiming that it's the best thing she

Well done, Molly - a fantastic amount raised for a very worthy cause.



Caring student and boss plan Christmas Party!

alone at Christmas or who don't see a lot of people.

Sixth Form student Katie Griffin and her boss are planning a free, bumper Christmas party for the elderly at Haslingden Cricket Club. For two years Katie has been waitressing for KL Catering at the Cricket Club and since publicising the party on social media, lots of people have offered to wait on for free and donations for the event have flooded in. Katie's boss had the idea to organise a free party for elderly people who may be

Katie is a member of Evolving Fitness in Stubbins who are supporting the event financially, together with lots of other sponsors who have come forward. Well done Katie and everyone involved.



Year 10 student Ella McGovern along with members of her family raised a fantastic £1,600 for Rossendale Hospice by scaling Ben Nevis in Scotland in just four hours.

They chose to raise funds for the hospice because of the support and counselling provided by them for a number of our students after the MEN Arena bombing.

Ella is no stranger to fundraising having taken part in a midnight walk and a Tough Pretty Mudder challenge.

She has previously climbed Snowdon and has yet to decide on her next challenge!



CHRISTMAS AT HASLINGDEN



Safeguarding children



lancashire
**safeguarding
children
board**

Staying Safe Online ...a guide for Parents and Carers

The range and complexity of today's technology can often seem bewildering for many adults, particularly with older children who may seem to be permanently 'connected'. Parents and Carers are key partners in helping to safeguard our children when using technologies such as Laptops, Tablets, Smartphones and Games Consoles - as such, it is useful to agree some ground rules to support their safe use. Use the checklist below and those points opposite as starting points. The list of

recommended resources on the left are great sources of information which outline some of the potential risks and provide supporting information for parents and carers.

Some useful suggestions to get started...

	www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers
	www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/topics/stay-safe
	www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents
	www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers
	www.pegi.info/en/index/
	www.internetmatters.org/technologies/parental-controls.html
	www.vodafone.com/content/parents.html

- Don't be put off by the technology - remember Knowledge v. Wisdom (what would we do if the technology wasn't involved?)
- Agree some ground rules - set out your expectations (and why). e.g. when can they go online and for how long (don't forget, most gaming consoles now use the Internet as well)?
- Talk to your child about the online world - what do they like, what worries them and what to do if something goes wrong
- Get your child to talk to you - Not confident? Don't know your Tweets from your Snaps? Consider a 'role swap' and let your child become your teacher to increase your own knowledge
- Consider parental controls - solutions don't need to be technical but filters on the home internet connection can help to screen inappropriate content
- Don't jump to conclusions if something goes wrong - we all make mistakes. Some sites/apps may include 'clickbait' in order to generate advertising income.
- Ensure privacy settings are set up on apps/sites and gaming consoles - there are often more options than typically thought but remember we still need to be careful what we share
- Keep an open dialogue - problems often go unreported for fear of losing access to the technologies they treasure

and finally...
 DON'T FORGET THE POSITIVES - whilst the use of technology brings potential risks, it is part of our world and also provides immense opportunities and benefits



lancashire **safeguarding children board**

Know who online 'friends' are	
Ask your child to teach you about their online world	
Be careful about what you share	
Set expectations and time limits	
Understand not everything online is true	
Know how to report problems on Social Media	
Know how to block unwanted callers	
Check security settings are in place	
Make sure you have an Anti-Virus program	
Consider using home broadband filters	
Check age ratings on games	