



ISSUE 102

NEWSLETTER

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A Word from our Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to another newsletter! This half term has gone by in a flash, but as you will see, we have managed to pack a lot into a short space of time, whether it has been trips outside of school to Manchester and London, in the classroom, learning about careers in the catering and design industry or in extra curricular activities such as Drama Club and the library. Thank you to all staff for their time and energy in supporting our young people so they can expand their horizons and enjoy a range of activities and experiences.

We are excited about the next stages in SGHS' plans to embed climate change throughout our curriculum and the support that Friends of SGHS can lend to this important priority. You will find a flyer all about our big ideas in this newsletter and you can attend a meeting on **Monday February 19th at 6pm** in school to find out more. Please register [your interest here](#).

This term has seen students experiencing politics coming to life, with a sixth form trip to the Houses of Parliament, a visit from local MP Julian Smith and whole school engagement in an important and unique democratic process, run by the UK Youth Parliament. Students are part of the 'Make Your Mark' project which allows them to vote on the topics that they care the most about and for candidates that will represent them at the UK Youth Parliament. Our students are full of ideas to change the world and it is always interesting to hear their thoughts on the world around them. Thank you to the tutor team and Mrs Holdsworth for facilitating this important work.

We celebrated Children's Mental Health Week by hosting an event led by the Bradford and Craven Mental Health Support Team, that brought together student Well-Being Ambassadors from across the Craven district to share the brilliant initiatives they have led in their schools. It was inspiring to hear the next generation talk about the things they have done to promote well-being across their schools. It was a fantastic opportunity to reflect on our successes and be inspired about next steps. We are proud to work with BDCFT Mental Health Support Team and grateful for their support. Thank you to Mrs Coia and all involved for ensuring the event ran smoothly and for their commitment to well-being.

There is lots to look forward to at SGHS as the spring term approaches: we have year 9 options evening, Cabaret Night, our inaugural Music Festival and much more. We look forward to sharing more adventures with you after the half term break.

Ms M Featherstone
Headteacher





Houses of Parliament Trip

On the 15th January, Year 12 and 13 Politics students had an excellent day visiting the Houses of Parliament in London. We started off the day with a tour around Parliament, firstly visiting Westminster Hall, the oldest building in the Parliamentary estate, dating back to the 11th century. It was so special to stand in the same building where such a vast range of historical events took place, ranging from Guy Fawkes' trial, to more recently, where thousands of people visited to pay their respects to the Queen who was lying in state in late 2022.

We then had the opportunity to sit in the House of Lords whilst a debate on the Israel-Hamas conflict was taking place. It was fascinating to witness inner-workings of the Lords, the revising chamber, and gain insight into the topics that are debated there. After finding out the exciting news that the Prime Minister was making a statement in Parliament, we hurried to the Commons to witness it. Sitting in the public gallery, we listened in to the debate between the Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, and the Leader of the Opposition, Keir Starmer, over funding for Ukraine. We later found out how rare, and lucky, it is for the public to witness the Prime Minister speaking in the Commons!

After this insightful experience, we headed off to a workshop, and held a debate on our chosen topic: lowering the voting age to 16. We even managed to get Mrs Townsend to wear the Speaker's wig and black robe! At the end of the workshop, Julian Smith, the MP for Skipton and Ripon paid us a visit, after having just returned from Number 10 Downing Street. We had the opportunity to ask him a range of questions about

his role as MP, ranging from his experience before he became an MP to his advice for younger generations, as well as discussing our future plans with him.

After learning about UK Politics in the classroom, it was really interesting seeing the workings of Parliament in real life. The visit was a fantastic way of bringing our knowledge to life!

**Poppy McBeath, Georgia Bateson,
Holly Ashton, & Annabel Kemplay**





Library News

We've had a busy start to the year, with several themed displays to offer wider reading to students wishing to explore further the topics they've been introduced to in lessons and house gatherings. The current Holocaust Memorial Day 'Fragility of Freedom' display has been particularly well explored; as well as a selection of fiction and non-fiction books, the students have been interested to read information sheets and personal accounts by people who have been affected by genocides around the world.

The library is a studious place to be right now. It is a silent zone during study periods and is full of committed Year 13s preparing for their trial exams. But it's not all hard work – love is in the air as the 'date with a book' profiles come in thick and fast from students wishing to be matched with the book of their dreams this Valentine's Day. The book dates will be wrapped and delivered by the literacy leaders during tutor time.



Date With a Book

Valentine's Day

2024

What/who is your favourite book/author?

Which genres do you enjoy the most (fantasy, sci-fi, thriller, etc.)?

Which genres do you enjoy the least?

Would you prefer to stick with your usual genre or try something different?

Please hand this back to
Mrs Walkden before
Monday 29 January

Name: _____

Tutor Group: _____

Year: _____



The Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing 2024

The library and the English department are pleased to confirm that SGHS will again be taking part in the Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing shadowing scheme this year. The UK's longest running children's book award, the Carnegie Medal recognises outstanding reading experiences created through writing in books for children and young people. Running in libraries and schools alongside the professional judging process, the shadowing initiative engages thousands of children and young people nationally and internationally in reading the books on the shortlist via reading groups and posting their reviews online. Each year, young people who take part in the scheme are invited to vote for their favourite books to win the Shadows' Choice Award, which is announced alongside the Medal winner at the annual winners' ceremony in June.

The Skipton Shadows (our group name!) will debate and discuss the shortlisted books in a weekly lunch-time group and do book-based activities with the librarian and literacy leaders. The twenty longlisted books will be announced on 13th February and the eight shortlisted books on 13th March, when the shadowing will commence. There is a sign-up form for interested Year 7–10 students in the library.

Mrs Walkden
Librarian





Introducing the SGHS Sustainability Research Hub

Bringing outdoor learning to a new level with our new outdoor classroom



Can you help us achieve our goal?

We aim to build (with help of our local community) a sustainable research hub on the school grounds of SGHS. This space would be used to facilitate outdoor education, to give a platform for our teachers to embed climate change education throughout all subjects, and more importantly, get our young people into the outdoor to re-connect with nature, learn about climate change in the outdoor setting and get them to care and be proactive about making sustainable lifestyle choices.

By 2050, all major UK sectors need to be net zero, this means that around 500,000 employees are needed to fill the projected employment gap in this country alone. Our students need to be equipped with the skills and knowledge to embark on "green careers" and take a leading role in these emerging job markets. As a community, we must ensure that our students have the exposure to high quality climate change education in order to become citizens of the future and the stewards of the planet.

Do you work in an industry that might be able to support this project?
Would you like more information about how you might be able to help us?
Please email: team@friendsofsghs.org.uk, or please attend our student presentation at 6.30pm on Monday 19th February. To register interest please complete this form: <https://forms.office.com/e/mk8zNZpHyw>

**"IF CHILDREN DON'T GROW UP
KNOWING ABOUT NATURE,
THEY WON'T UNDERSTAND IT.
AND, IF THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND IT,
THEY WON'T PROTECT IT."**

Sir David Attenborough

The Whitworth Art Gallery and Manchester Museum Trip

We had a great day in Manchester on the 18th January where we visited The Whitworth Art Gallery and the Manchester Museum. The purpose of the visit was to enhance and enrich our student's experience of Art and Photography; and enable students to gather resources specifically for their Component 2 Externally Set Assignment. We were lucky with the weather, it was cold but we had beautiful sunshine, which enabled the students to take some superb photographs. The Art students did some lovely drawings in the Manchester Museum and in both venues our students, as ever, behaved impeccably, which was noted by staff at the Whitworth.

Mrs Scott
Learning Director for CREATE

The trip was really fun and inspired us and helped us get ideas and photos for our Artwork

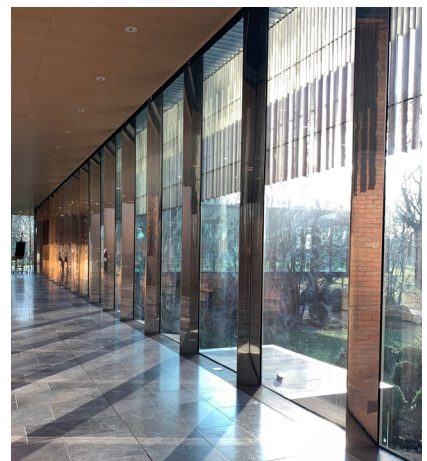
- Chloe and Maisey

“

Our trip to Manchester was very insightful, it allowed us to gather new perspectives, to start our GCSE ESA. As well as it being very helpful, it was an enjoyable opportunity and allowed our enthusiasm for photography to develop further.

- Jemma and Ayana

”



Rotary Chef Competition

Evie Garton, a Year 10 Food Preparation & Nutrition student, entered the Rotary Chef competition on Thursday 1st February, which was held at Craven College.

Evie did well and demonstrated a range of skills with the dishes she chose to cook.

Her main dish was 'Fried halloumi served with cannellini bean mash & a beetroot salsa'. The dessert was a 'Cranberry, pear & white chocolate crumble.'

Evie enjoyed the whole experience and is looking forward to entering next year's competition.

Well done!

Mrs Yasin
Teacher of Food Preparation
& Nutrition



Drama Club

Since September, Miss Cornforth and Miss Hartley have been running drama club. Drama club is for students from Years 7-10 and is all about gaining confidence, having fun and learning lots of new skills. So far, we have performed scripts extracts in front of our peers and are currently practising for the Cabaret Night, including scenes from 'Mean Girls', 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and 'Oliver'.

I have been researching the importance of drama within secondary schools and would like to share this with you: The UK's leading professional association for drama and theatre production, National Drama (ND), states that 'Drama's contribution to children and young people's education is academic, artistic, communal and social.' Also, stating the importance of its diversity.

Consider that they also state: 'It develops skills in planning and critical thinking, generating ideas, imagining, creating, negotiating, exploring, rehearsing, questioning, interpreting, researching, reflecting; problem – solving and presenting.' National Drama also determine; 'It is social in collaborative process, facilitating and exploring the development of personal self-esteem and wellbeing', emphasising the importance of having access to drama outlets.

For me, drama allows me to express myself through my acting and I enjoy being able to put myself in other people's shoes and explore other point of views and emotions. What interests me is the way people interpret characters in different ways, and how one's own lives can really impact their acting.

It is a burning desire of mine for everyone to have the chance to attend a drama class within the school curriculum, so why not attend drama club? A fellow Year 10 student, Grace, summed this up well with the comment:

"I believe drama club is an incredibly enriching club to be part of because you are surrounded by like-minded people who are all there to have some fun. Drama is beneficial for both confidence and social skills so it's a great club to join no matter what year a student is in. It's also a great alternative for those who were unfortunate to not have the option to do drama GCSE."

Finally, I would like to talk about GCSE Drama, to hopefully help those in Year 9 who are considering Drama as one of their options. I was unable to pursue drama last year which, unfortunately, is a trend which we have seen in recent years; supported by the fact that GCSE Drama entries are on the decline having decreased by 35% since 2010. By choosing Drama as one of your GCSE options, not only will you be able to flourish in confidence, but you will also gain the skills needed in interviews, further education and careers environment. Drama fosters a spirit of co-operation, develops public speaking skills and sharpens visualisation and creative skills. Secondary Heads Association stated in 1998, 'A school without Drama is a school without a soul.' For me this is such a profound statement and one that I completely resonate with.

Florence Perry
Year 10



British Design Museum Lesson

Akville Terminaite, is an 'experience designer' and design educator who works at The Design Museum in London. She gave our Year 10 GCSE Design and Technology students a remote lesson on what it's like to work as a professional designer. She explained various ways to do research and to identify a need in society and then how designers work through the process of iterating, prototyping and planning for manufacture in order to bring a successful product to market.

Akville was very engaging and knowledgeable and the students took part in a range of exercises and discussion sessions culminating in them presenting some of their ideas. She also spoke about the Competition that they run each year for schools called 'Design Ventura'. This is an exciting opportunity for students to design and manufacture a product that could be sold in the Design Museum gift shop. The winning school gets their ideas manufactured and put on sale.

This was an amazing experience provided by one of the country's foremost design institution that was delivered directly into our classroom, and the students really enjoyed their lesson and opportunity to discuss their own 'Ventura' ideas with Akville.

Mr Wood
Design and Technology



Willow Dome

Year 12 Art students faced chilly winds and rain to build this beautiful dome out of willow. The willow will grow and should be covered with green growth by the summer term. Mrs Scott plans to use the area as a place to make willow sculptures during enrichment week.

Well done to all that helped!

Mr Dryland
Teacher of Art



Northern Star Initial Teacher Training Update



Already they have built some great relationships within the school community and have secured jobs for September.

The first full term has been packed with professional learning sessions on and off site and this term we welcome a visit from the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), where trainees will learn how the benefits of school gardening and nature connectedness impacts on student motivation and wellbeing.

With another packed half term under their belts our trainees will be looking forward to a well earned pause for breath over the February half term!

Thanks to staff and colleagues who have helped and supported all the trainees so far.

Helen Smith
Northern Star ITT



If you know anyone who is ready to take the next step into teaching do get in touch with Helen Smith smithh@sghs.org.uk or see our website:

www.nsitt.org.uk



A Prespective on English Literature at A Level

English Literature A Level is so much more than the misconception that it's just 'annotating books'.

Instead, it's an amalgamation of so many different subjects, ranging from philosophy to history, politics and even discussions of Freud for psychology fans! It undoubtedly complements so many other A Level subjects and provides you with invaluable skills for the future.

Reading literature completely transports us to the time in which it was written, helping us learn not only about the author, but the societal issues, concerns, or fascinations of the time. The historical contexts we are currently studying for the A Level are so fascinating. Some examples include the rise of the religious right and Ronald Reagan in the 1980s for *The Handmaid's Tale*, the motif of hair in Victorian literature, and

Pre-Raphaelite art and aestheticism for Christina Rossetti's poetry. As Izzy Preston, another English Literature student says: "*Studying English Literature develops more than your understanding of language, it combines deep historical context, religious debates, other forms of artistic expression, and a deep understanding of the world around us*".

It's so much more exploratory and conceptual than the GCSE, as we explore 'big ideas' throughout the texts, and our lessons are an incredible opportunity to discuss, and often debate different interpretations or readings. Critics often act as springboards for our ideas, with different class members often agreeing and some disagreeing with their views.

The great thing is that there are so many different lenses in which you can read texts through, something

I never even considered until now, including feminist, queer, Marxist, and allegorical readings. Student Lola Carr describes English Literature as "*a bridge into the wider world*" and a subject that "*widens your horizons*".

The great thing about our course is that we study a vast range of different genres and literary forms, and draw parallels between these texts, which is so satisfying when you notice a connection! The fact that we read around the genres as well, means we essentially become experts in the genre by the end.

It truly is a fascinating subject, and I would recommend it to anyone!

Poppy McBeath
Year 12



This Edition, and previous issues of the Newsletter, can also be viewed on the School Website.

www.sghs.org.uk/newsletter



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