



ISSUE 105

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2024

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A Word from our Headteacher

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I am delighted to share our final newsletter of the academic year. It is jam packed with photographs and articles about our students' adventures. I hope you enjoy reading them and being reminded of the memories made. This half term has been particularly busy with trips and whole school events such as culture day and sports day.

Enrichment activities perfectly capture the SGHS experience. It is an opportunity to do things differently, challenge ourselves in new settings, deepen friendships and build new ones, dig deep when things are challenging and of course, have a lot of fun. Thank you to all of our families for sharing our enthusiasm for all of these activities and helping us make it happen.

Of course, these activities could not happen without the dedication of so many people in school, from our business manager and finance team to all of the teaching, associate and catering staff involved in organising events and giving up their time to go on the trips. A special mention and huge thank you must go to Mrs McMillan for the behemoth that is Enrichment Week, Ms Holdsworth for Culture Day and Miss Starr for Sports Day.

I wish you all a summer break full of adventure and discovery, with plenty of rest, time outdoors and good books. We look forward to hearing all about it when we return in September.

Very best wishes,

Ms M Featherstone
Headteacher



Year 8 Visits Maths City

In March, all of Year 8 went on a trip to Maths City Leeds the UK's first National Mathematics Discovery Centre. Located in the Trinity Centre, Maths City is an interactive space to explore all the wonders of maths. There were lots of hands-on exhibits to do on one's own or together with some friends, as well as a large group activity.

One of our favourites was the giant bubble where you create an enormous soap bubble to encase yourself (and possibly some friends). The bubble forms a beautiful symmetrical shape around you before it suddenly bursts.

We also enjoyed the liquid spinner, an elegant acrylic chamber filled with a royal blue liquid which forms a perfect parabola shape when spun very fast. This fascinated us and was a fan favourite. Some of the other exhibits such as the "smart sand pit" and the "human kaleidoscope" were also fun and fascinating. Our visit also coincided with "pi day" and we were treated to a guest exhibit. On a large touch screen, each of us tried to draw a perfect freehand circle and the computer rated its accuracy. Some of us had a rare talent for doing this and a few students and teachers made it on to the leader board with over 98% accuracy.

As a group we made a DaVinci dome designed by the famous inventor as a completely self-supporting structure. To form it we made lots of squares out of wooden pieces that slotted together. Once completed, we then huddled inside the dome and were surprised at how strong it was and how hard it was to break, as well as how many people could fit inside!

Conveniently Maths City is located right across from Trinity Kitchens so lunch was easily sorted and quite delicious too. After a long day of solving puzzles and enjoying a day away from school, we walked back to the train station to head back home. Everyone really loved the trip and we wish we could go again.

Jannah Ahmed, Jasmine Hodgson, Christina Krasnikova, Emma North, Erin Swinton, and Mr Ross
Year 8



MATHSCITY

SGHS hosts the first NSAT Green Futures Showcase

On Monday 8th July, Skipton Girls were proud to host the first NSAT Green Futures Showcase. The day was attended by over 100 Year 5 students from our NSAT schools and some of our feeder primary schools. We were joined by Lancashire Community Rail, Northern Gas and a UN Good Will Ambassador who all ran engaging and exciting sessions to introduce the students to the concept of the future green job market.

The students made hydrogen, learnt about the sustainable development of the railway infrastructure, unveiled myths about sustainable living and conquered an escape room with a recycling theme.

At the end of the day, our guest speakers took part in an “ask the panel” activity and the students were given the opportunity to find out more about these industries and careers.

A big thank you to our fabulous SGHS helpers across Year 7, 10 and 12, without whom the day would not have been the success it was!

We look forward to hosting more Green Careers events in the future.

Mrs Lofthouse
Associate Assistant Headteacher





SGHS Careers Fair 2024

“Future me” event

The Careers Fair on the afternoon of Wednesday 10th July was a huge success (despite coming hot on the heels of Enrichment Week). Due to its success last year and to ensure that all students continued to have the opportunity to access valuable careers information from many varied sources, the Careers Fair was open to **all** students, but we also added in additional workshops on Apprenticeships, T levels and Raising Aspirations and a tour of West Bank and Life at SGHS Sixth Form for students in Years 9 and 10. This was to engage, enthuse and excite students about their futures - to increase aspiration and broaden horizons for all.

We invited a wide array of different organisations to the Careers Fair ranging from HE providers; to local businesses & multi-national organisations with well-established Apprenticeship routes covering a variety of sectors (e.g. engineering industries; creative industries; finance; & public sector). Each year-group was allocated a time slot and their respective teachers brought them up to the Hall to participate and interact with the representatives at the Careers Fair in the Hall.

Year 7 and Year 8 students had Treasure Hunt cards to ask questions and find out answers from the different representatives, which they used with gusto. Representatives were bowled over with the enthusiasm and laser focus of Year 7 students. An additional motivating factor might have been their desire to win the House competition (and the “chocolate-y prize”) to complete the most Treasure hunt sheets!

The students had a brilliant time and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive across all year groups – one Year 8 student said “It was so informative. I didn’t realise all the different educational pathways you could take to get into a career.”

We can’t wait for the next Careers event and would like to include even more alumni and explore parental contacts to expand the horizons of our students further. Please contact townendg@sghs.org.uk if you would like to be included in future careers events at SGHS.





Buddhist Centre Visit

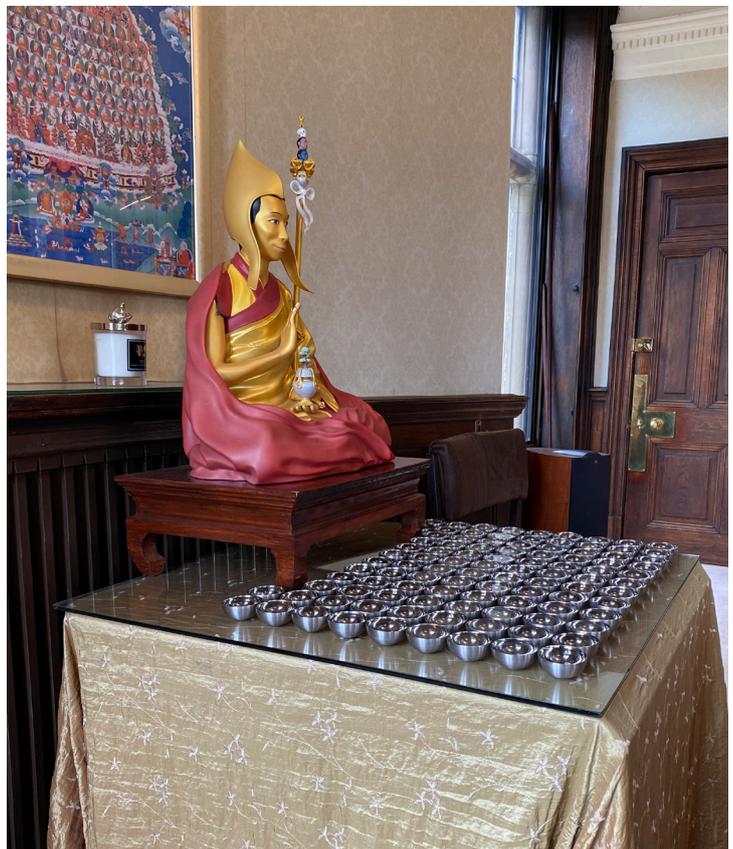
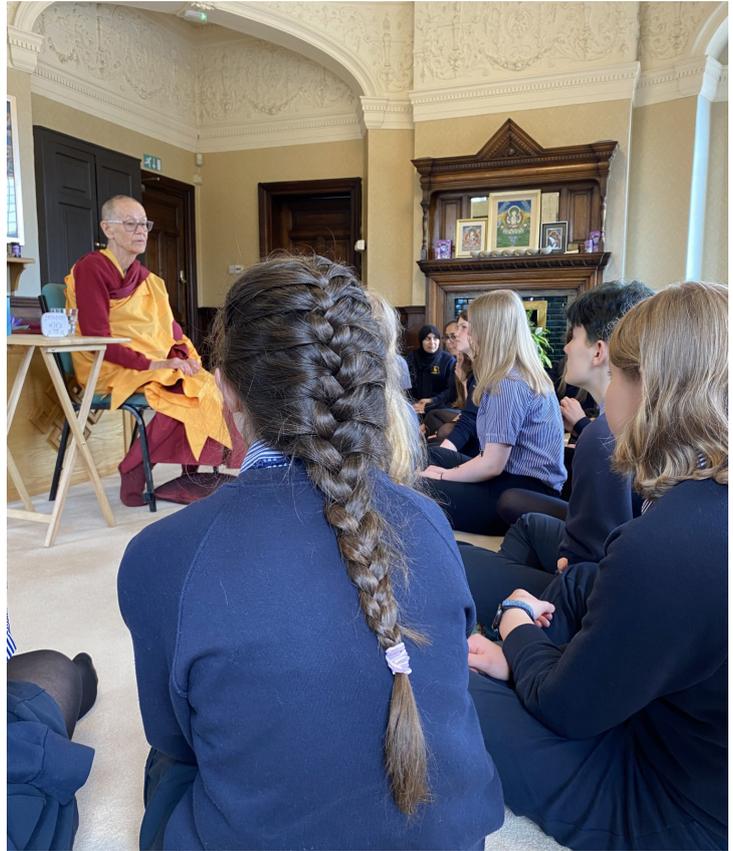
In early June each Year 9 class had the opportunity of visiting Buddha Land – a Buddhist Centre in Keighley.

We were kindly welcomed by Drama, a Buddhist nun who asked us to remove our shoes as a sign of respect and then led us to the meditation room where we had a look around the beautiful shrines and interesting offerings. Each shrine has an image of a different Buddha or teacher with offerings in front of them. Buddhists do not use these shrines to pray to, but to focus their attention on whilst meditating and to pay respect and gratitude to the Buddha and his teachings.

Drama then sat us down and talked to us about Buddhism, she shared her personal experiences and explained some of the key Buddhist teachings. We were then lead through a guided meditation that focused on our breathing and just being in the moment. Drama sat in front of us and explained how to sit and focus. Firstly, we were to try and clear our minds by focusing on one thing, this is an attempt to calm your mind. Buddhists try to do this so they can become closer to achieving enlightenment – the gaining of true knowledge about the self or the nature of reality and gaining freedom from the cycle of re-birth. Drama asked us to focus on our breathing, to count to six breaths and then start again (and if we got distracted then just start again from one), telling us to focus on the sensation of breathing in and out at the bottom of our nose. Buddhists usually focus on something like breathing while meditating because it is something, we all do naturally, and it is easy to focus on.

After the meditation we had the opportunity to ask Drama questions about her own experience as a Buddhist and she helped us to understand some of the key concepts of Buddhism.

Mrs Priory
Teacher of RS



Chemistry Olympiad

Back in January of this year, ten Year 13 students bravely sat the Royal Society of Chemistry exam for the 2024 Chemistry Olympiad. The UK Chemistry Olympiad is the leading chemistry competition for students across the British Isles and is designed to develop critical problem solving-skills and allow students to test their knowledge in new, real-world situations. Contexts covered in this year's paper ranged from metal alloys used in making the world cup trophy, to preventing the absorption of radioactive isotopes, to fuel producing bacteria and possible signs of life on the exoplanet K2-18b. Here is an example of an introductory question on the paper, demand increases as the question proceeds.

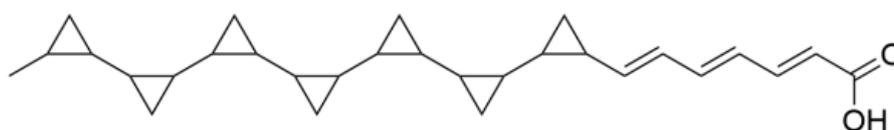
We recently received the results and this year students achieved the following award:

- Emily Wooler, Hannah Shelton and Aaliyah Chowdhury each achieved a certificate of participation.
- Aleena Baby, Darcie Poulson, Emily Butcher, Lauren Irlam and Soha Ansari each achieved a Bronze Award.
- Emily Eyton-Jones and Shurudi Selvarajah each achieved a Silver Award.

A huge congratulations to all the students for embracing the challenging!

Q3 This question is about fuel-producing bacteria

Scientists have developed a strain of bacteria that can produce molecules with the energy density of rocket fuels. They have given these molecules the nickname 'fuelomycins.'



fuelomycin A

Fuelomycins contain multiple cyclopropane rings, which are 'high energy' due to a property called ring strain.



cyclopropane

The skeletal formula of cyclopropane is shown above.

(a) Determine the molecular formula of cyclopropane.

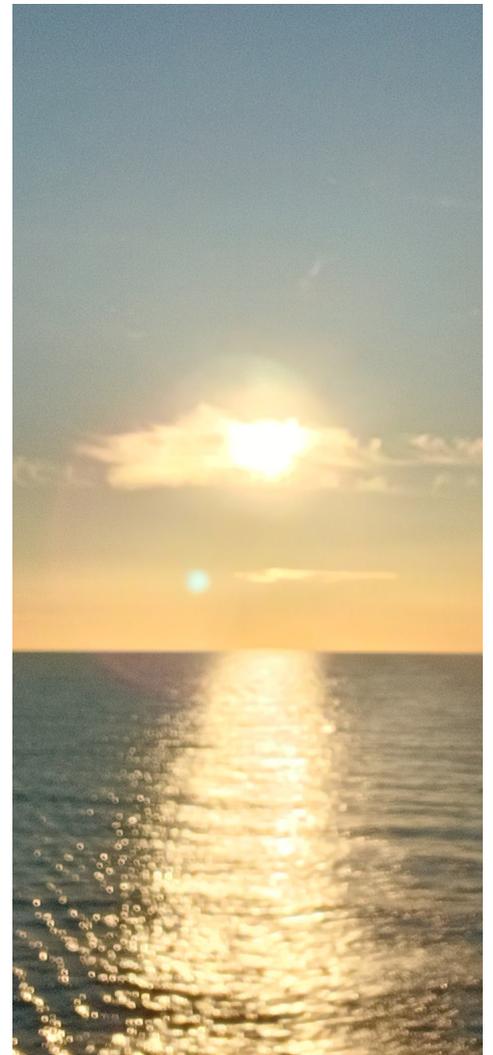
Source: Royal Society of Chemistry; Chemistry Olympiad 2024; UK Round One; Student Question Booklet

If you'd like to find out more about the RSC Chemistry Olympiad please feel free to contact me on prestonn@sghs.org.uk or you can visit the website: <https://edu.rsc.org/enrichment/uk-chemistry-olympiad>

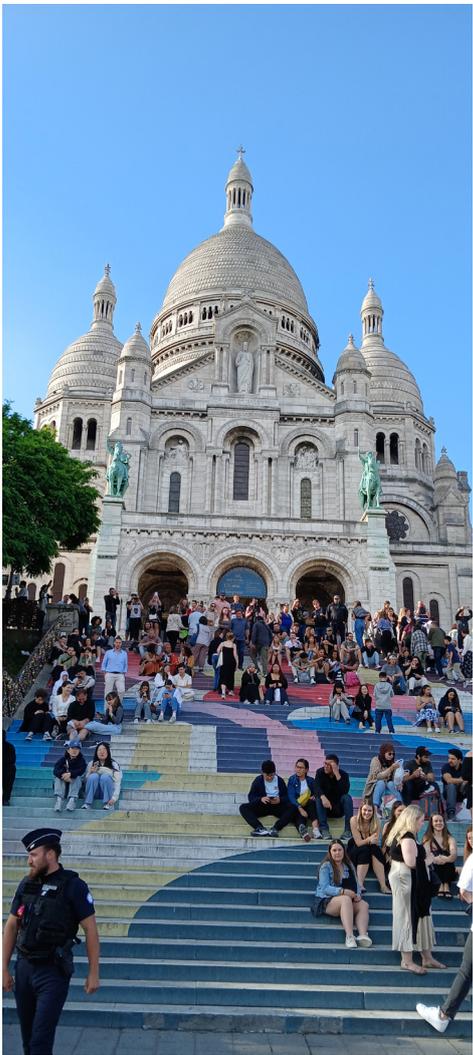
Skipton Girls' High School

ENRICHMENT

Week 2024













Spending Enrichment Week in School

We had a fantastic time, enjoying a range of activities within and beyond the school gates. We visited our local library and audited our local bookshops, producing a children's book for under five-year-olds. We baked cupcakes with highland cow artwork. We learned how to manipulate willow into ambitious and intricate structures, which we then displayed across the school in a trail for all to see. We watched films, ate popcorn, laughed and worked together as a team. We made friends we didn't know before, we saw the school and our teachers in a different light, we learned new skills. Bring on enrichment week 2026. We are ready to continue pushing ourselves a little bit more and stepping outside our comfort zones!

Mrs Fox and the In-school 'Gang'





Northern Star Initial Teacher Training



A huge congratulations to our trainees who all celebrated their amazing achievement of becoming Qualified Teachers at the end of June. They are all really excited to be starting their ECT programme in September, with jobs secured at SGHS and Harrogate High to Lancashire, Bradford, Wakefield and Shanghai!

We had a great day celebrating and sharing trainees proudest moments over the last year.

June saw us completing another successful Internship programme. Hopefully this three week taster into teaching life will encourage them to apply to our course once they finish their degrees.



Wishing trainees, teachers, mentors and pupils a wonderful Summer.

Applications have now closed for 2024-25 but will open again mid-October. If you are interested in applying to become a teacher have a look at our website or let us arrange a school experience day for you. www.nsitt.org.uk



Northern Star
Initial Teacher Training

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APPLY NOW

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“ Northern Star ITT has helped me to grow as a teacher and as a person in a way that makes me feel at home, contained, and protected.
- ROXY, SECONDARY ”

2024 Fairtrade Competition



This certificate is awarded to
Sylvia Kingham
Highly recommended KS3 entry in the 2024 Fairtrade competition for schools
sponsored by Craven DEC and Skipton Fairtrade Initiative

Signed *Liz Rodhouse* 4th July 2024

WE ARE A FAIRTRADE COMMUNITY

Fairtrade at 30 the future is fair

CRAVENDEC

2024 30 Years of Fairtrade making its mark

Well done Sylvia!

Year 8 MFL Children's Book Project

This half term, our Year 8 French and Spanish groups have been working on a project to write a children's book in the target language. Students have done this in previous years and enjoyed showing off their artistic and linguistic skills and creating some wonderful books. This year the standard has been high again and it has been lovely seeing the students work together on this project. Here is what some of the students said:

In this project, we had seven lessons to create a 6 – 12 page children's book that taught children two different topics from the perspective of an animal. Our book would follow the story of an animal who travels to different places, whilst also exploring different cultures. We had to include illustrations and use what we have learnt this year. These were things like what they ate, how they travelled and where they stayed.

In our groups of 3 or 4, everyone had a role - a time-keeper who made sure that the group was finishing everything in time and making sure that the group stayed in schedule; a leader who made sure everyone was doing their roles and helped when-ever needed; a grammar guru who would do a lot of the script to make sure that everything was in the correct tense and the grammar was correct; and a creative manager who would create the basic story line of the book and also do a lot of the illustrations.

able to make our own decisions about our storyline. This allowed us to get more involved in our story and have fun with it. It also meant that we could all contribute our own ideas towards the story.

We found that making sure that everything was going together properly was one of the most challenging things, as it made illustrating the book and writing the script rather hard as a group as everything would have to be done at the same time and also at the correct time.

We learnt how to put our French into real life situations that can be portrayed through our books. E.g. how to put food and drinks. I also learnt how to work as a team when we have different roles and jobs all at the same time.

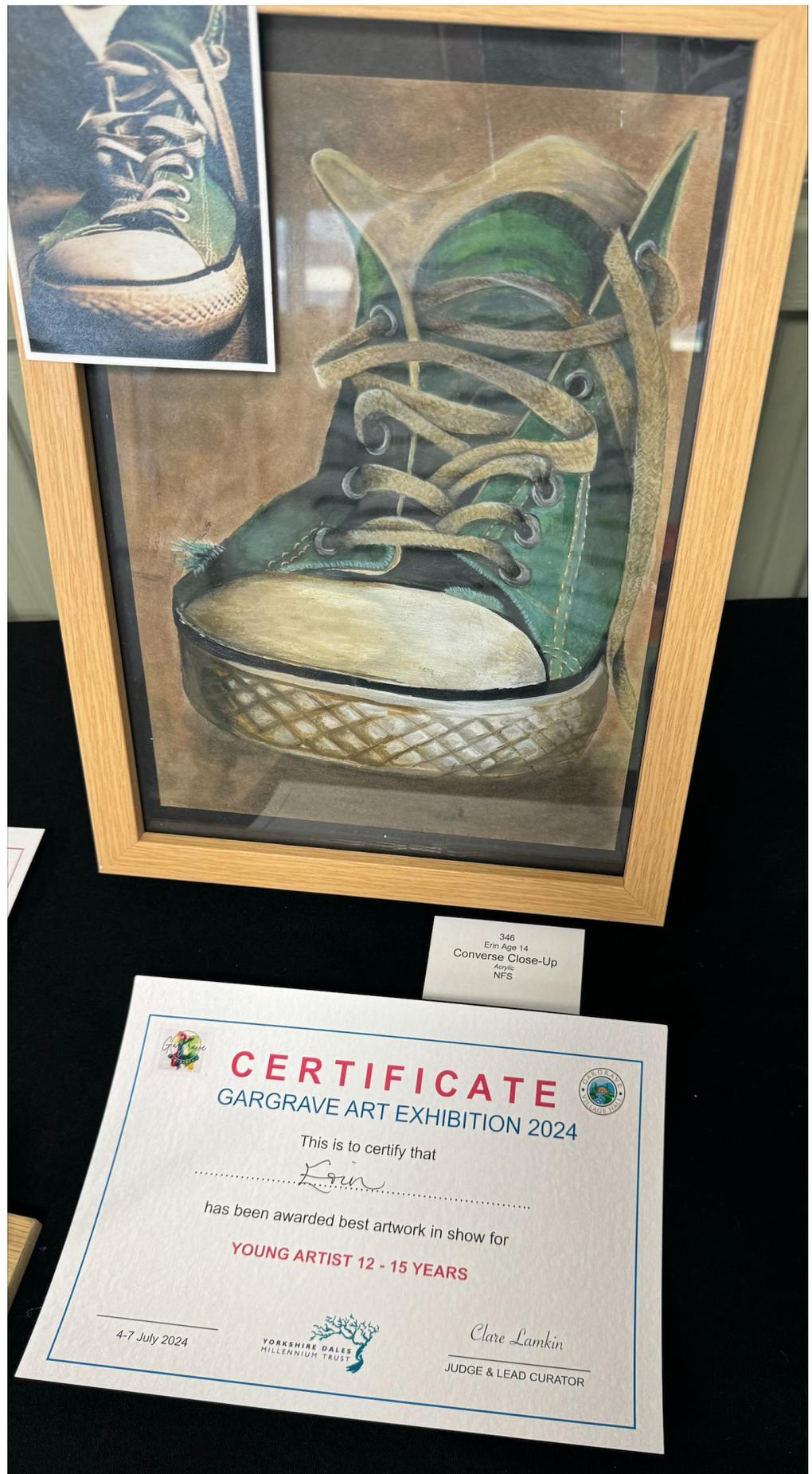
I think that the project tied in very well to the topics we have done in the past year to show how we have understood the knowledge that we have learned. It has also shown us that we don't have to be able to say everything we want to say but just what we know to make a successful story. If I was to do this again, I would plan out what I want to more thoroughly.



**Ava Gath, Madeline Dodgson
and Niamh Binns**
Year 8

Best Artist Award

Well done to Erin Carter in Year 9, who was awarded best artist in the 12-15 year old category at the Gargrave Art Competition.





Library News

Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing



The Carnegie Club came to a celebratory end with all our members gathering to livestream the official awards ceremony from London. We had our own little awards ceremony too, with certificates for the participants and some party food. The book that received the Judges' Award (and was crowned overall 2024 winner) was *The Boy Lost in the Maze* by Joseph Coelho. The Shadows' Choice Award (which our members were able to vote for) went to *Crossing the Line* by Tia Fisher. We were particularly happy with the Shadows' Choice as it was one of the books our group had most enjoyed and several of us had voted for.

Book reviews by the Skipton Shadows (our group name) can be read here: [▶](#)



Library Displays

The library has had several changes of appearance this half term with displays to support what has been going on around school and the wider world. We've had book and wall displays for Pride Month, Empathy Day, the Women's Prize for Fiction (which this year went to V. V. Ganesananthan for her novel *Brotherless Night*, depicting a family fractured by the Sri Lankan civil war), the Paris Olympics, and some recommended summery reads



Enrichment 2024 - Barcelona

On Enrichment Week the whole school had the opportunity to go abroad. There were various trips which included Benalmadena, Barcelona, Amsterdam, Poland and Disneyland Paris, as well as activities within the UK, for example, there were trips to Blackpool Pleasure Beach and even the opportunity to do indoor skiing.

I was very lucky to be able to visit Barcelona and take part in water sport activities which I found very invigorating and enjoyable. We were able to take part in a sightseeing tour of Barcelona, which was a great opportunity to enhance my knowledge of the history of such a fascinating city. The water sports included kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding and canoeing. As it was something I'd never done before, I especially enjoyed the paddle boarding, and it was extremely exciting to jump into the water. I loved working as a team when kayaking as it allowed us to unite and be collaborative.

My trip highlight was the waterpark where we were able to explore the slides with our firmly forged friends. The weather was lovely, and I was able to step outside of my comfort zone and go on slides that looked quite frightening. The day was definitely a memorable one which I will never forget. We also visited the lovely beach of Castelldefels and took pictures with our friends to commemorate Enrichment Week.

If you are contemplating on whether to take part in Enrichment week trips in 2026, I would definitely recommend you do. It is an amazing experience, and an opportunity for you make lots of long lasting, treasured memories.

Florence Perry
Year 10



Year 12 Politics Visit to Hustings at Craven College

Politics students have been enjoying a year full of political activity with landmark moments in political history, making it an excellent year to study Politics A Level. Prior to the general election, they attended a political hustings session at Craven College, with MP candidates for the Skipton and Ripon constituency. Almost all candidates attended (except the Conservative and the Yorkshire Party), and each presented a three-minute speech to the students. When given the opportunity to quiz the candidates after this, a range of brilliant questions were asked, with topics ranging from the sewage problem in our local rivers to National Service – a very contentious issue for much of the audience!

One SGHS politics student asked the Reform UK candidate a question about attempts to increase representation in voting. Many questions were received with cheering and applause showing excellent levels of enthusiasm for the hustings.

Another politics student commented that *“It was really useful to gain an insight into different party policies”*, whilst another re-reported that it was a *“really unique experience that I thoroughly enjoyed and helped better my understanding of the general election.”*

Overall, it was great to see the candidates addressing and acknowledging younger generations who are often overlooked in Politics, particularly since Year 12s have only just missed their opportunity to vote this year.

Rachel Barratt, Marketing and Communications Officer at Craven College said: *“We were delighted to be able to hold a hustings at Craven College in the run up to the General Election. The event was well attended, and students asked some probing and insightful questions. It was very useful to hear the policies from all candidates and impressed on everyone there the importance of using their vote!”*

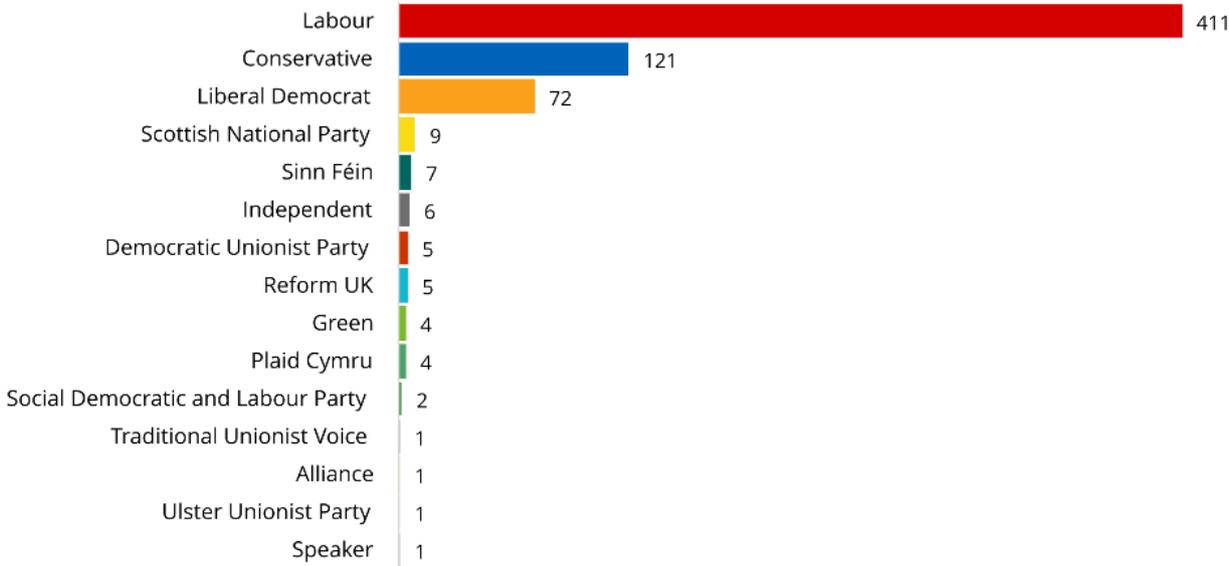




Our politics class has also thoroughly enjoyed discussing and analysing the recent election results. It was encouraging to see record high levels of female representation in both parliament and the new cabinet, making it one of the most diverse governments in history. We also found it fascinating evaluating how the First-Past-The-Post voting system distorted election results, helping Labour achieve its landslide victory. For example, we discovered that if Pro-portional Representation was used, Labour would have 236 compared to its whopping 411 seats.

2024 general election: number of seats won by party

After all 650 seats declared





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

www.sghs.org.uk/newsletter



**Skipton Girls' High School,
Gargrave Road, Skipton,
North Yorkshire, BD23 1QL**

Tel: 01756 707600

Fax: 01756 701068

Email: reception@sghs.org.uk

Website: www.sghs.org.uk

Tweet: @skiptongirls