



ISSUE 80

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019

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A Word from our Head of Academy

Dear parents/carers,



Welcome to the winter edition of our Newsletter as we draw to the end of another busy term at SGHS. In this edition you will see the range of activities our students have been involved in during the last seven weeks, as well as some articles written by our current Year 12 students about their experience of the Sixth Form X'tra enrichment programme.

In the last few weeks we have had the Winter Concert, it was great to see so many students involved in instrumental, vocal and dance performances from across the MFL and Expressive Arts subjects.

This week we had the Sixth Form Prizegiving Evening and it was lovely to see so many ex-students back at SGHS to collect awards and certificates. As well as hearing from our Chair of Governors, Mr Cutler, we were fortunate to hear from Leah Spears, an ex-student at SGHS, who is now the Senior Director: TV & Advertising at Asda. We are very keen to build on our alumni links as we have so many students who have gone on to do amazing things and are represented in just about every career area imaginable. More information about our alumni programme and links will be appearing on the school website in January.

We do say goodbye to several members of staff at the end of this term, Mrs de Joux (Teacher of Physics), Mrs Stead (HR Administrator) and Mrs Uy-Bowden (Science Technician) they have all made a significant contribution to the school during their time with us and we wish them all the very best.

Ms L Woolley (Teacher of Physics) and Mrs Whitaker (Admissions and Alumni Administrator) will be joining the staff team in January.

Finally, a huge thank you to all our students, parents, staff and governors for your continued support of the school and helping make SGHS the very special place it is. I hope you all have a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Mr M Turner
Head of Academy



Christmas Card Competition Winner

Year 7 student Caitlin Booth's Christmas card design for the Compass Buzz competition has won! The challenge was to design a card on the five ways to wellbeing at Christmas, with a prize of some wellbeing books for the school, which will be presented in the new year. **Well done Caitlin!**



Spectacular STEM Showcase

On Thursday the 14th November Skipton Girls' High School held a Spectacular STEM Showcase for over 60 local primary school pupils. Over 30 Primary schools were invited to bring a selection of Year 6 students who have a passion for STEM subjects.

The day involved an insight into the wonderful world of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), working with specialist subject staff from SGHS.

Science

The Science department led an engaging and creative science experiment where the students were encouraged to explore perfume and aftershave production and develop their own product. Their challenge was to make the next top selling perfume or aftershave. This hands on session allowed the students to:

- Learn about the importance of our sense of smell
- Create their own stunning scents from scratch
- Carry out practical science in the lab to make their own perfume
- Design and advertise their product so that it is appealing to their chosen audience

Technology

The Computing department created an Escape room environment. Students were given 45 minutes to crack a selection of challenging codes and puzzles in order to prevent an evil hacker from destroying the Internet. The students showed great logic and

problem solving skills to break out of the room and receive a prize before their time ran out.

Engineering

In Engineering students were challenged to build the quickest bridge structures, with each task increasing in difficulty. They had to work as a team and use their time effectively, but most of all they had lots of fun whilst building it!

Maths

The Maths challenge involved a series of puzzles and challenges to enable the students to visualise the climate crisis through considering the impact of the Christmas Jumper. Some excellent communication and maths skills were used throughout and the students expressed how the activity made them look differently at the impact of Christmas Jumpers on the environment.

The day was a great success and gave the Year 6 students a real insight into the fascinating world of STEM. A big thank you to all the teachers who planned and ran the different activities, the participating primary schools for being so enthusiastic and supportive of each other and to our amazing Year 10 Computer Science students who were fantastic and integral to the running of the day

Mrs Lofthouse

Learning Director, CREATE





Carleton Primary School

"WOW! The Spectacular STEM Day at SGHS really was spectacular. Environmental maths, bridge building, perfume making and breaking codes to get out of the escape room. Thank you so much for this. The activities, staff and Year 10 students were all amazing."

Grassington Primary School

"A superb event giving our children from Grassington, Burnsall, Kettlewell and Cracoe a fantastic experience. All of the activities were really informative and captivating and the children returned to school on Friday full of enthusiasm about them. Your Year 10 students who helped on the day were fantastic too - the children really enjoyed working with them and they were a credit to SGHS."





Salvation Army Christmas Appeal

A huge thank you to all students, staff and parents who donated gifts for the Salvation Army Christmas appeal. You have helped to ensure that less fortunate children and teens will all receive a gift to open on Christmas Day. We are sure that Dr Still will greatly appreciate the effort put into the collection as she would normally organize this, but unfortunately, she could not be here to do it this year. Here you can see pictures of how many gifts we collected during the appeal and it shows the hard work that SGHS have put into this.

Rosie Snell and Sapphire Allko
Year 8





Year 12 Hustings at Craven College

On Monday 9th December our Year 12 class visited Craven College to watch a local political debate. We were privileged enough to see nearly all the parliamentary candidates for the Skipton and Ripon constituency, and hear their views on the issues that mattered to us most.

The questions we asked included their opinions on lowering the voting age, police force promises, and food bank usage in the area. We also heard how we can tackle climate change and the seriousness of the ecological crises, especially in the wake of the youth climate strikes, and the Irish border problem in relation to Brexit.

I'm sure the entire group found the hustings hugely interesting and exciting. It really inspired me to dig deeper into the world of politics and become more personally involved – I am even becoming a member of a party subsequent to this! Thank you to Craven College for inviting us over, and to all the candidates who attended - we were all very enriched by the experience.

Ruby Firth
Year 12



Westminster Visit

On the 20th November, a group of Year 12 and 13 politics A Level students went to London to visit Westminster for the day. Firstly, we had a tour around Parliament itself where we were taken into the chamber where the Queen sits when she visits the House of Lords. Then we saw the House of Lords, which is where non-elected Lords gather, such as Lord Alan Sugar, to pass bills from the House of Commons, the larger house of Parliament.

Then we went into the House of Commons, which is normally not accessible, but Parliament was dissolved due to it being the run up to the General Election, therefore no MP's were in Parliament. We managed to see the speaker's chair and walk around the chamber. However, we could not sit on any of the seats that the elected MP's sit such as Skipton and Craven's current MP Julian Smith. We could instead visit the voting lobbies where MP's go when the division bell rings, in order to cast their vote. This happens when it is uncertain which side has the most votes.

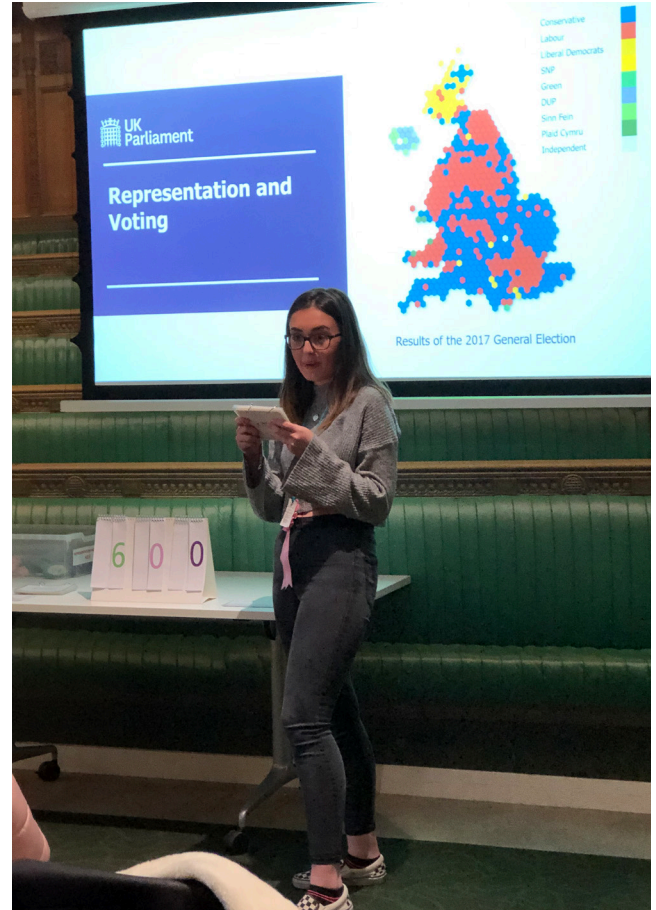
Also, we went to see the Victoria Tower which is named Victoria due to the fact that when Parliament burnt down in 1834, Queen Victoria and Albert rebuilt Westminster. However a small section remains, which has lasted over 900 years.

After the tour we took part in a workshop in which we discussed the different electoral systems that the Government could use during a general election, we currently use the First Past the Post system. Then we had the opportunity to create our own political parties and their manifestos.

Overall, it was an excellent day in which we could see what we were studying in class come to life. Whilst visiting the place that our country has been governed from for hundreds of years is a fantastic opportunity for anyone.

Maddy Phillips and Laura Goodchild
Year 12





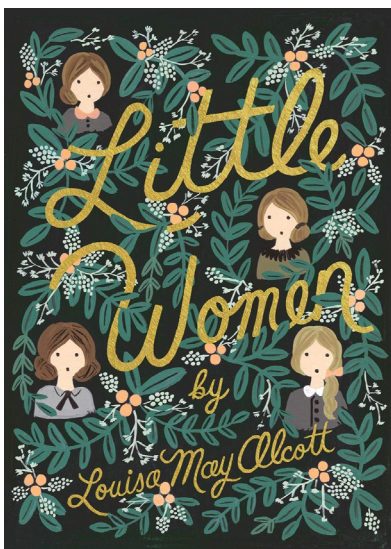
Christmas Reading Recommendations

Icelanders celebrate Christmas Eve with the **Jolabokaflod**, which literally translates as the Yule book flood – exchanging books on Christmas Eve, and spending the evening reading them. With some more time over the holidays for rest and relaxation, it's the perfect time to pick up a book and get some quality time in. Shared reading can also be a magical experience over the holidays.

Research shows that reading aloud with teenagers is a great way to improve reading skills and experience, reading something they might otherwise not choose.



Here are some festive suggestions to get you started this holiday!



Little Women – Louisa May Alcott

“Christmas wouldn’t be Christmas without any present,” grumbled Jo, lying on the rug.

Starting at Christmas, *Little Women* is a beautiful story of the March girls – feisty and boyish Jo, the responsible and caring Meg, tempestuous, artistic Amy, and Beth, shy but intensely loving. As the girls navigate their teenage years, with their father far away from home fighting in the Civil War, they negotiate romance, social responsibility and growing up. With a new film adaptation starring Emma Watson being released this month, it’s the ideal time to introduce the novel.



The Dark is Rising – Susan Cooper

The strange white world lay stroked by silence. No birds sang. The garden was no longer there, in this forested land.

Starting at Midwinter’s Eve in the dark of a wintry night, this fantasy novel is full of drama, fear, and the feeling that winter has come when Will needs to take on the role of Guardian of Light to combat the evil magic of the Dark.



Let it Snow! – John Green

Once you think a thought, it is extremely difficult to unthink it.

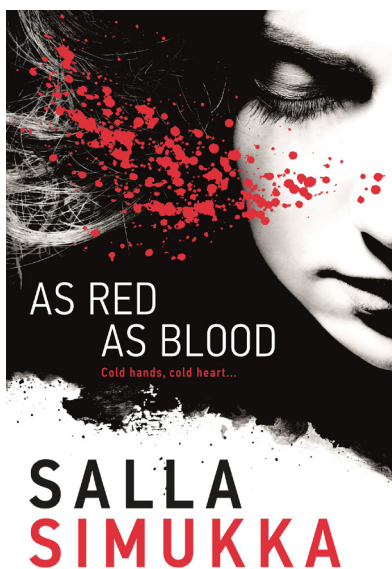
Fans of *Paper Towns*, *Looking for Alaska* and *The Fault in Our Stars* will enjoy this set of short wintertime romances in modern settings and situations. Accessible and fun, but with Green's trademark literary knowledge and cultural curiosity (his Youtube channel covers everything from literature to physics to the state of the world), they're lovely to dip in and out of – perfect for a 20 minute reading session!



A Christmas Carol – Charles Dickens

I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.

A great one to read aloud or together, especially considering its length at just 96 pages – and another with a fab looking adaptation coming to the BBC over the festive season! Dickens' classic is well-known – Scrooge, the mean, grasping moneylender and his road to redemption. But the novella itself is a dark read, with Dickens' focus on gothic horror and social responsibility.



As Red as Blood – Salla Simukka

Once upon a time, there was a girl who was not afraid.

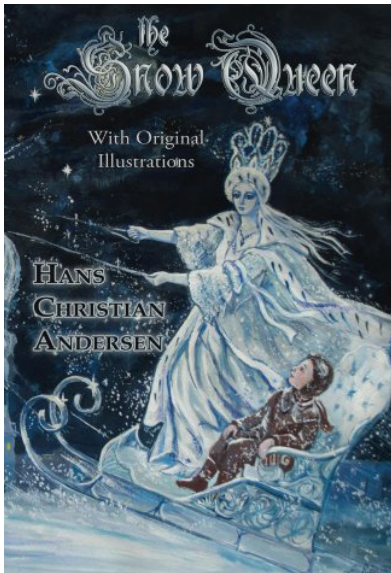
The first of a trilogy loosely inspired by Snow White. The author describes herself as a combination of “Hercule Poirot and Lisbeth Salander” – this is definitely on the adult side of young adult! Her heroine is lonely, androgynous, and extremely resourceful. This book follows her through the Finnish landscape, the cold and icy wastes and forests perfect for reading snuggled up warm and cosy while it freezes outside.



Ghosts of Christmas Past

Sitting down to read a ghost story at Christmas is a tradition.

This collection includes older authors, like M.R. James (the classic Christmas-ghost writer), as well as modern voices like Neil Gaiman and Michelle Paver. Another one for dipping in and out of, depending on what suits your mood, but perfect for spending time under a blanket with hot chocolate.



Hans Christian Anderson

Another Scandinavian writer with stories full of snow, Christmas, and reminders to think of others before ourselves over the holidays. In *The Little Matchgirl*, Anderson tells the story of a little girl desperately trying to stay alive by selling matchsticks and, when nobody buys, she strikes the match to keep herself warm. *The Snow Queen* is the story of Kai and Gerda, two children living next door to one another when Kai gets a piece of a troll-mirror in his eye, making him unable to see anything beautiful in the world any longer. It's up to Gerda, when Kai is taken by the Snow Queen, to follow the river to win him back.

Rock Around SGHS

As part of our 'Well-Being Wednesday', our form did some rock painting and used a festive theme to decorate our rocks.

These were then planted around school for a kind of treasure hunt. Any student finding a rock could return it to our form base and get a chocolatey treat in exchange.

Tutor Group
JBE



Foreign Films

We have really enjoyed spending a relaxed Friday lunchtime watching films and expanding our knowledge of different cultures at Foreign Film Cinema Club. We have watched 4 different films and they have been in French, Spanish and German. Our favourite film was a French film called 'A la folie, pas du tout', as it was a fascinating story with lots of unexpected twists, and we were left on a cliff hanger two weeks in a row! We are currently watching a film called 'Joyeux Noël' about the Christmas Truce during WW1 as a lead-up to Christmas.

Come and join us next term!

Niamh Burns
Year 10

Foreign Film Cinema Club

Every Friday
12:15 to 1:00
CH6

Come and
discover other
cultures!

Bring a pack lunch.



Learn and Live

On Friday 13th December we were delighted to welcome North Yorkshire Fire Brigade and Lauren Doherty who together delivered a hard hitting, but very informative talk on 'Driver Awareness' to our Year 12 students. The talk focused on the potentially deadly issue of road safety, the seriousness of the presentation became clear as vital statistics were explained to the Year 12 audience and an extremely emotive final video clip confirmed some students' fears that the video clip was linked to a real-life case and left some students (and staff!) visibly moved as they left the hall. Our guest speaker Lauren Doherty shared her own personal story of when her life was changed forever by a horrific road accident in 2008. The talk was perfectly pitched and brought home to our students the importance of road safety.

We feel this topic is a vital part of our Sixth Form education, especially with young drivers (aged 17-24 years) being overrepresented in road traffic collisions compared with other road users. For example

- Young drivers are 50% more likely to crash in their first year.
- Statistically the most dangerous seat in a vehicle is the front passenger seat. This seat is often named the 'Sacrificial seat' and it is predominantly young females who suffer the consequences.

At the end of the talk as the students returned to their classrooms, each of them appeared to have found the presentation thought-provoking and helpful in making them all more aware of the dangers on the road. We would like to thank North Yorkshire Fire Brigade and Lauren Doherty for delivering the talk.

Sixth Form Team



FemSoc

SGHS FemSoc is a thriving, inclusive, interactive and thought-provoking club that offers students a safe space to express ideas about Feminism and explore different viewpoints.

This term has been incredibly busy with students from across Years 9 to 12 presenting lunchtime sessions on: why young women are turning away from feminism, to what extent feminist merchandise is a positive addition to the feminist movement, abortion rights, the policing of women's bodies and whether or not heterosexual marriage can ever be a truly feminist endeavour. Our weekly discussions culminated in 'A Very Feminist Festive Celebration' with party games including: pass the feminist parcel and pin the sash on Pankhurst!

Any students wishing to join in with our empowering, inspiring and, at times, challenging discussions are welcome to come along to R1 every Thursday lunchtime.

Miss Silver
English



A Level Prizegiving 2019 Photos



(Above) Some of our prize winners (left to right) Nicole Kirkbride, Grace Homard, Amy Ball, Megan Smith, Holly Gott, Milly Middleton, Daisy Watkiss, Molly Wolstenholme, Emily Wilson, Alice Baker and Josie Mulligan.



(Above) Our Head Girl Team alongside our guest speaker Leah Spears, Head of Academy, Mark Turner and Chair of Governors, Howard Cutler.

Prospective students and their families flocked to the event, where they got the chance to speak to current Sixth Form students and staff about their work, curriculum, examination results and life in the Sixth Form.

Presentations were made by Mr Turner, the Head of Academy and members of the Head of Girl Team. Representatives from a number of universities and businesses were also on hand to provide advice about life after Sixth Form.

This year's Open Evening was another great success and it was wonderful to welcome so many people through the doors to give them a flavour of our Sixth Form.

Sixth Form Team





Gold Arts Award - Sixth Form Collaboration

Every Wednesday Afternoon the **Gold Arts Award Team** come together to focus on the Creative Arts. Alongside UCAS points the impetus behind the Arts Award is to forge arts links within the community and gain leadership skills. To date the students have led workshops with students from Brooklands Community School – teaching them about mark making and printing. The students have also held class debates on key arts issues which have been informative and very insightful.

As part of their Award the students have to gain an insight into the Creative Industry, to date we have attended a workshop alongside the A Level students to see the work of artist Peter Hicks and we have visited Jackie Smith, Set Designer at the Head Quarters of the upcoming All Creatures Great and Small. This was really insightful as we spoke to Jackie and her team about their day to day job. (Due to restrictions we cannot share our photography until the programme is aired)

We are looking forward to start preparing for the behind the scenes aspect practical element of our Arts Award in the new year when the students begin designing for the upcoming school play, **Romeo and Juliet**.

Sixth Form Team



Sixth Form Open Morning

We have recently delivered a highly successful 'Open Morning' which offered external students a taster of life in the Sixth Form at Skipton Girls' High School.

The Open Morning consisted of

- A talk with the Head of Sixth Form
- A question and answer session with the Head Girl Team where the students could ask questions about life and learning in the Sixth form.
- A tour of the school
- Sampling a wide range of A Level lessons
- At lunch time they visited the Sixth Form Centre which tickled the students taste buds with a range of delicious hot meals and desserts.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and many students have said that not only did they enjoy the day but they now consider Skipton Girls' High School to be their first choice for post 16 education.

Sixth Form Team

(Below) Our Sixth Form Open Morning external visitors.



Student Comments

“

I was already seriously considering studying my A Levels at SGHS. This visit has made me certain that I want to come here.

”

“

The event has made me more likely to apply for SGHS Sixth Form and it has helped me see the school from a different perspective”

”

Super-Curricular Learning

At the beginning of this term, the Head Girl Team organised the very successful Freshers' Fair in order to advertise the wide range of extra-curricular activities that we have on offer for all students. The studio was buzzing as students from all years came to peruse the choices and register their interest at various different clubs. As well as this, the Head Girl Team advised those students applying to Oxford and Cambridge university to set up some new clubs that would not only aid them in their interview preparation, but it would enable students to take part in an activity that they may not have done before and would extend their own academic learning. For example, Debate Club was started by Ellie-Louise Medd which instantly attracted a lot of interest with students wanting to develop their debating skills and voice their opinions on various different topics. Some recently debated topics include; 'Is feminism working if we look at male despair rates?', Climate Change, how the media represents politics and Brexit. This has also given students a chance to explore opinions of other people that they may not have thought about before which helps to create a very supportive and open-minded environment within our school community.

Megan Done
Year 13



UCAS

This has been a vital and sometimes stressful term for our Year 13 students who have applied to university (and probably for their parents too). We began work on this process in June of Year 12, and the support continues until the students receive their exam results in the August of Year 13.

We have set a number of deadlines to assist the students in this process to ensure that they get the best possible chance of receiving offers. Our internal UCAS school deadlines were set for the end of September for Oxbridge, Medics, Vets and Dentists and for all other courses by the end of the Autumn Term. The reason for this is to ensure that our students' applications are all in to UCAS and the students' chosen universities before Christmas, to give our students the best possible opportunity to have their applications given the full attention by universities. To put this into context - approximately 250,000 applications are submitted before Christmas and over 500,000 between Christmas and the 15th January - the final UCAS deadline. Whilst all students should be given fair consideration if their application is in by the UCAS deadline, Admissions Tutors will have more time to assess their application before Christmas. Over 110 applications have been sent to UCAS in total from Year 13 at the time of writing, each one has been rigorously checked, which is extremely time consuming, but which ensures that students maximise their chances of a successful application to their university of choice.

We are delighted that so many of our students have already secured offers from their university choices. Once offers are made they cannot be retracted by universities so we strongly advise students to take their time considering which will eventually be their Firm choice and which will be their Insurance choice. Firm and Insurance choices do not need to be made until the 5th May 2020, so we recommend that students make their choices in March/April when they have had time to review how they are progressing in their subjects and potentially attend visit days and further open days.

Sixth Form Team

UCAS

Sixth Form X'tra Enrichment

Enrichment enhances the curriculum and allows it to be placed in the wider context of the world we live in. The SGHS enrichment programme follows four discrete paths. Academic courses are at the forefront followed by Skills based courses, Work experience courses and work within the community.

Please see the following for some of our Sixth Form students' Wednesday afternoon Year 12 enrichment experiences so far this year!

Oxfam

Volunteering for charity is a great way to gain numerous practical skills that will not only look outstanding on your CV but will also help you throughout your working life. During my first term volunteering at Oxfam, I've helped organise shop displays, upload items to the online store and been taught how to identify, label and price clothing appropriately. The staff there are all helpful and kind, helping make my experience at Oxfam a pleasant one and I'm looking forward to continuing volunteering there in the new year.

Libby Rose Slade
Year 12



Skipton Building Society

For my enrichment I chose to do work experience at Skipton Building Society Head Office in the finance department. This is because business and particularly finance is a career option I am considering. However, I didn't have much prior knowledge of what different jobs there are available in the finance department and whether I would be suited to them. Spending every Wednesday afternoon at Skipton Building Society this past term has given me the opportunity to discover more about the different jobs in finance and also gain knowledge about how they overlap and interlink with other departments within a big business. Going to Skipton Building Society has made me realise that I have a keen interest in business and finance and now know that it is definitely a potential career path for me that fits quite well with my A Level options of physics, maths and politics even if I don't study business or economics. I have also gained more of an idea of what university courses I am interested in, and what apprenticeship schemes would be available to me at Skipton Building Society as well as elsewhere.

Maddison Phillips
Year 12



Dementia Friendly

As part of the SGHS Sixth Form X'tra Enrichment Scheme, every Wednesday afternoon Year 12's get the opportunity to volunteer or gain some work experience. I volunteer at Dementia Friendly, which is a charity that helps those living with Dementia and their carers.

I volunteer at one of their drop-in sessions which provides respite for carers and family members by running activities for those living with Dementia as well as offering information and support to anyone within the Dementia community. For this reason, every week is different and I can learn a variety of skills.

Often I help run the activities of those living with Dementia such as looking at pictures from the past, watching old videos and playing dominoes. I find this extremely rewarding as I get to see first-hand the enjoyment that they take from the session and spending time with people who understand them. I also have helped to support their carers and help people who have themselves just been diagnosed with the disease or their loved ones. From this, I have improved my communication skills and learnt how to cope with challenging situations.

In addition, I am involved with fundraising for the charity and I recently helped to organise and run their Summer Fete in the Keighley Airedale Centre. Overall, we raised a grand total of £1500 from a raffle, tombola and various stalls such as a cake stall. This money will go a long way to improve the charity and the vital support they give to the community. This has enabled me to learn organisational skills, time-management and to truly make a positive difference to my community.

Volunteering every week has aided me to grow as a person, in confidence and to learn how to work effectively with others. Volunteering has also helped me gain work experience for if I choose to study Psychology at University. However, even if it did not relate to my future career, it has still instilled in me many invaluable skills and attributes, which



will help me to become a well-rounded person. Also by becoming a volunteer or gaining work experience, you have talking points for any university interviews or future job applications.

Therefore, the work experience and volunteering options on Wednesday afternoons are fantastic opportunities to gain experience relating to your desired career, to develop as a person and to have something to show interviewers and universities that you are a well-rounded and interesting individual. Personally, I am extremely glad that I volunteer at Dementia Friendly.

Laura Goodchild
Year 12



Ashland Veterinary Centre

Work experience is a valuable opportunity which holds many benefits such as improving personal statements, developing personal skills and finding a career that interests you. The Skipton Girls' High School work experience placement gives each Year 12 student the opportunity to get real experiences and insights into a career they may wish to pursue.

As a Year 12 student aspiring to study Veterinary medicine at university, work experience is vital to get me through the application process. I have learnt many skills on my placement over the first term whilst expanding my knowledge of the world of veterinary science.

Work experience has allowed me to increase my confidence by asking questions and carrying out tasks such as preparing medical equipment for sterilisation. I have also learnt how vets communicate complex biology in a way in which clients will understand in order to try find out what is happening with their pet. The vet/client relationship is very important as it's the only way a suitable treatment plan can be found for the animal.

I have been fortunate enough to be able to witness many surgeries where I have learnt about and witnesses a variety of procedures. One of the most important aspects of surgeries is hygiene. A sterile environment ensures that no pathogens can grow and so the risk of infection is greatly reduced. I have been taught how to sterilise all equipment, fully clean theatre once it has been used and also carry out personal hygiene and safety during surgery.

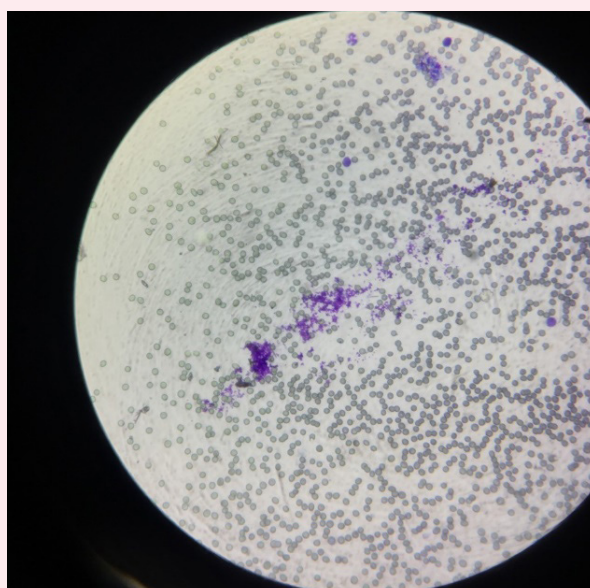
Emergencies can be brought in at any point so it's important that everyone remains calm so that the patient gets the right treatment. A stray kitten was brought in and it was severely malnourished, cold and dehydrated. The vet needed to act fast in order to save this kittens life as it also had blood glucose levels which were so low that they were unreadable on the machine. I helped bring all the equipment needed, prepare a kennel for the kitten and help hold the kitten when it was given its glucose. Despite the scare of the severity of this case, everyone kept calm and this allowed successful communication and team work so the kitten was given exactly what she needed in order to survive.



I have been taught how to analyse certain blood tests in order to make a suitable diagnosis. Microscopy is another method of testing which can help identify the cause of illness. I have been taught how to use the microscope, prepare and dye slides and also try and recognise certain types of cells such as white blood cells. I have also watched ultrasounds of organs such as the heart and kidneys and been taught what to look out for on these types of scans that may indicate that something is wrong.

Everything I have gained in this term through the SGHS Sixth Form enrichment programme has proven to me that despite the upset and stress the job may carry, being a vet is incredibly rewarding and it has assured me that it is the career path I wish to take. I would highly recommend that future Year 12 students seize the opportunity to take part in work experience on the SGHS work placement scheme as it not only makes you a stronger candidate for the next stage of study but also helps to recognise if the career you wish to have is right for you.

Lucy Fryers
Year 12



(Above) Photo of a cat blood sample under a microscope.

Skipton Building Society

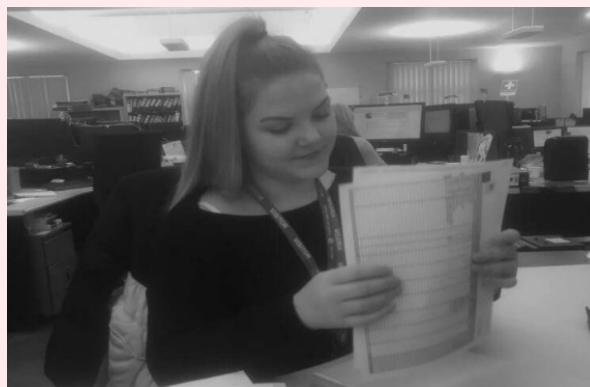
I decided to apply for my work experience placement at Skipton Building Society because of my interest in business and finance operations. Having studied and enjoyed business studies at GCSE level and achieving one of my highest grades in the subject, my decision was confirmed to study it as one of my A Level options. Personally, I felt that the work placement at the society would provide me with an advantageous insight into the functioning of such a work environment as well as the typical roles of employees within teams such as treasury, procurement, settlements and financial advisory. As a Year 12 student with an interest to study either a business or psychology course at university level, I believed that work experience would form a vital part of my personal statement and application process. Furthermore, I felt that the opportunity would allow me to develop both my independence and communication skills that come with engaging in a new, unfamiliar environment.

The work experience programme has enabled us to build upon our communication skills with a wide variety of people, from colleagues in the same team as us to managers of departments, and has

additionally allowed us to develop our independence and confidence by being left independently to get on with the work they've set for us.

Every week we look forward to our work experience placement, as it means that we can interact and work with a variety of people doing a range of jobs that we otherwise wouldn't be able to do. We believe that, work experience is an essential component in determining your suitability for a future career path and anyone given the opportunity should take it to develop their skillset outside of their A Levels.

Hannah Binns Year 12



Sutton in Craven CE Primary School

Recently I have started my work experience placement at my old primary school, which is Sutton-in-Craven C of E School. Teaching in either a primary or a secondary school is a career option that has always remained interesting and open to me so it has been beneficial so far to explore the reality of working in a school.

It has been challenging at times to assist the lessons of the Year 6 class here, however it is definitely developing both my leadership and communication skills. Teaching these children, the basic skills they will need when they progress to secondary school next year is rewarding for everyone involved, and I'm happy to continue helping in their transition to Year 7 throughout the whole of my placement here.

Madison Hey Year 12





Principle Healthcare

This year Principle Healthcare offered Skipton Girls' High School the opportunity for 5 students to benefit from work experience at their Head Office, including the specialisms of International Business and Accounting, along with Social Media and Advertising.

Principle Healthcare is a group of vitamin and health related companies that work together to create the business group; including ClubVits, Health Innovations and their personal charity, created by the CEO himself, the Principle Trust, which provides free holidays to underprivileged children and their families.

As Year 12 students, both of us aspire to study Business at university, and by taking on this work experience enrichment option, we hope to gain a memorable insight into the business world. Our experience so far is helping us to develop skills that will be useful in our future career paths, as well as helping develop us as individuals, such as communication skills from working as a team to achieve a common goal and help the business thrive.

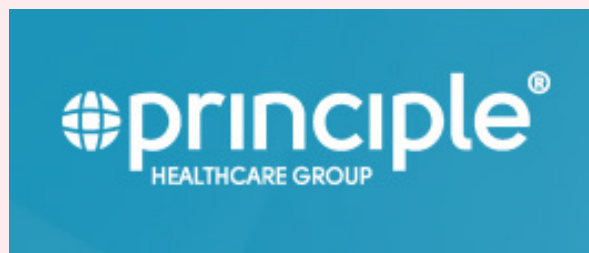
Based at the charity, Millie has had the opportunity to organise fundraising events and transform the website, which has helped her grow in confidence in her work. The department has been extremely supportive in helping her to develop understanding of the business world and further help to ex-

tend her skill set in areas such as content writing, spreadsheets and pricing.

At ClubVits Ania has been able to contribute to the hardworking team whose goal is to create an influential social media platform, with the intent of selling more vitamins to big brand supermarkets such as Tesco and Aldi. She has gained a very useful insight into how a business functions and the skills required to be successful in the business area. She has used their social media accounts to promote products and has been given the opportunity to help with the financial side of the company.

We both agree that our work experience placements have provided us with a new determined and positive attitude that will help us with our future endeavours, along with the other SGHS girls working at Principle Healthcare.

Millie Haggas and Ania Richardson
Year 12



Craven Nursing Home

The opportunity to do a medical work placement at SGHS has been invaluable. Every Wednesday afternoon, we take part in work experience placements at Craven Nursing home. At the nursing home, we assist as part of the activities team, leading and helping out with different activities every week. By ensuring that we give the residents a range of activities from painting to musical bingo and tabletop games, helped us to realise the immediate impact that we can have on the elderly. Just a simple conversation can really brighten their mood so we try to talk to new people every Wednesday so that everyone has an opportunity to talk to somebody. The activities that we volunteer with are essential for keeping the residents stimulated so we play a major role in making sure that the games we coordinate allow them to actively participate.

In addition, our work experience has enabled us to develop our communication skills with both the elderly patients as well as other members of the care staff. This is essential in working in the line of healthcare in order to converse with patients. Furthermore, we have developed our leadership skills by leading and organising many activities without relying on the other members of the activities team allowing us to be more independent. These skills are essential when we go onto further education and are often skills which universities look for in their applicants.

Volunteering is immensely useful for those wanting to study courses such as Veterinary Sciences, Medicine and Dentistry at university. In personal statements, many universities emphasise the importance of work experience which enables you to develop a multitude of skills gained from placements like these. As Year 12 students aspiring to study medicine and dentistry in the future, this work experience is vital to our application process.

In addition to this, we have undergone talks on Dementia and communicating with those affected by Alzheimers or Dementia. These have provided vital knowledge on diseases affecting the brain and are something that we are able to expand upon if we are asked on how volunteering at Craven Nursing Home has helped us in developing skills necessary for Medicine or Dentistry.



Through working on Heron (the dementia unit), we had an insight into how progressed Dementia really affects a person and their way of living. This has allowed us to further develop our understanding of age related diseases. By doing activities with residents, we are constantly coming up with ideas on how to keep them stimulated e.g. quizzes so we play a large role in coordinating activities.

Friendships have been developed over the last few months, and it has been a satisfying and rewarding experience. Having gotten to know them on a better level, we can see the impact we make on their day by simply spending some time talking with them. From 3 - 4pm we have the opportunity to have an in depth conversation with them enabling us to develop a closer relationship and still being useful to us as we therefore have first-hand experience and knowledge in how to talk to Dementia sufferers.

Sneha and Nikita
Year 12



Cononley Primary School

The work experience placement we have been involved in is a unique opportunity that we are lucky to have at Skipton Girls' High School. The work-place skills and people skills we have already learnt from our placement are invaluable for our personal self-growth.

As Year 12 students aspiring to embark on Family Law and Teaching courses at university, our work experience at Cononley Community Primary School will really help set us apart from other applicants.



Holly

For myself who aspires to study Family Law at university, the Sixth Form enrichment programme at SGHS allows us to go to Cononley Primary School every Wednesday afternoon to assist the teachers and help the children in their schoolwork. This programme has enabled me to build upon my communication skills, not only with adults in the professional field, but also with children. This has allowed me to further develop my confidence by talking in front of large groups and taking control of various activities. I take part in different activities at the primary school, including leading different lessons, monitoring break time and reading with the children. This has helped me to understand further how children process information and how to support children in different situations. All the activities and interaction with the children, has made me be a better, more confident person. All in all, I believe my work experience will thoroughly help me in the future when deciding on my career path and I am thankful for the opportunity which SGHS allows us to have.

Saffy

As a student hoping to study primary education at university the enrichment programme at SGHS has been an amazing opportunity. In the summer of Year 11 I went back to my old primary school (Oxenhope Primary School) to carry out a week's work experience to decide if primary education was the right thing for me. After a successful week's work experience at Oxenhope I was lucky to be presented with the opportunity to go on a work placement at Cononley Primary School. This work placement has helped me to develop my skills with both adults and children, especially as I get to help out with a range of children. I have also developed some useful skills such as reading with the children and it is amazing to see the children grow and learn. Even just from this first few months on work placement I can say for sure that I definitely want to study primary education at university. If it wasn't for this placement from SGHS I may still be unsure about a career option.

I want to say thank you to SGHS for providing us both with this opportunity of working with such an amazing school and I can say for both me and Holly that we are so grateful that we have been given this placement as it has really helped us to grow as students and learn so many new skills.



CONONLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL
Inspiring and Challenging Our Children

The Clockhouse Project

Over the past few months I have had the opportunity to work at The Clockhouse Project in Keighley, a respite centre for children on the autism spectrum. The placement was organised as part of the Sixth Form Enrichment Programme at SGHS and forms a vital part of the experience I need for my applications for university, whilst also helping me prepare for future jobs. I decided Clockhouse would be a great place for me as someone who wants to study Medicine in the future and needs experience in the healthcare sector.

The placement has allowed me to develop my social skills and has taught me invaluable lessons in conversing with those who struggle with communication. Undoubtedly, this placement has boosted my confidence and helped me become more independent; helping me throughout the future, in and out of the workplace.

With each week at Clockhouse, my knowledge on healthcare is bettered as I undertake new challenges. From organising sports activities to creating Christmas decorations with the kids, the action never stops and there is always an opportunity to learn about the role from the brilliant staff. Although fun, the job gives a realistic insight into a future in Medicine as I learn how to meet the needs and demands of young people with ASD and how they differ from other people their age but also how they often enjoy the same things.

The young people come to Clockhouse after school and often stay overnight. When they arrive, they put their bags and any medication away accordingly. Clockhouse provides a safe environment for the children to relax in and spend time with their friends and there's always plenty to do. Most of the kids enjoy cooking and love helping prepare tea in the kitchen, even taking orders. Each child gets their own bedroom and I get to see the roles of overnight staff who have to ensure they are on hand at all times to help the kids.

I have also been able to gain insight into a life in Medicine as I have the opportunity to see the staff administer appropriate medication. On the other hand, I've been able to pick up the things they enjoy and take interest in, even their food preferences, and what they feel uncomfortable with creating strong bonds and allowing the children to feel at ease when talking to me. When working in the healthcare sector, not only is knowledge important, being able to care and empathise with others and having strong communication skills is vital and I believe Clockhouse has helped me greatly in this. This is a rewarding feeling that allows me to look forward to going to work experience and I know it is exactly what I want to continue to do in the future.

Laiba
Year 12



Broughton Nicotine Services

When choosing a work experience placement as part of the Sixth Form Enrichment, we are offered the choice of a list from school, or the option to organise our own. As I was after some science-related work experience (I study Biology, Chemistry and Maths), I chose to attempt to organise my own, as there was no available options from school which offered this. I decided to contact the Broughton Group, and was offered a placement at Broughton Nicotine Services. Broughton Nicotine Services (BNS) is a privately owned laboratory, which provide analytical, scientific and regulatory services within the Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems sector. To put into simpler terms, the company provide a variety of tests for e-cigarette companies, in order to determine components and safety of these products (to the best of my knowledge).

As a work experience student, I was warmly welcomed into the company, and, after being brought up to speed on health and safety (and reading many, many SOPs), I was able to work within the lab environment. This is an opportunity offered to very few, due to the scarcity of lab-based work experience, and so I feel incredibly privileged to have seen the inner workings of a lab. As BNS is an analytical lab, the focus is on chemistry, and so I have been able to see real-life application of the topics I have only learnt about. This has proved invaluable in improving my understanding, and has heightened my knowledge on such subjects.

Within my role, I am given freedom I did not expect, and am able to choose between shadowing the analysts in their work, or performing a variety of tasks that need doing as a (trainee) lab technician. This variety keeps the work experience



interesting, and allows me to ask the analysts questions which I otherwise wouldn't have chance to, enabling me to explore the different degrees held by people who all work in the same sector. This has also improved my confidence, as there is a need to work without supervision, which can be quite daunting when you first arrive, and every mistake costs the company money, or can even put yourself in danger if you feign knowledge. It is therefore necessary to be honest with those who you work with, and have the strength to ask for help when needed.

I am thoroughly enjoying my time at Broughton, and look forward to my time there, thanks to both the wonderful people who work there and the fascinating nature of the work they do. I am also incredibly grateful to SGHS for timetabling this enrichment into the Year 12 timetable, as I would be unable to undertake this work experience outside school hours. I would encourage anyone to undertake any form of work experience, as I believe it is a vital part of developing as a person, and extends skillsets beyond pure academics, as well as determining the suitability of a potential future career path.

Issie Askew
Year 12

Oxbridge, Medics, Vets and Dentists - Mock Interviews

For many students in our Sixth Form, applications for Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry are a realistic course of action. To help support these students' Oxbridge, Medics, Dentists and Veterinary candidates have regular meetings throughout Year 13 with a dedicated member of staff who guides them through the application process. We encourage Oxbridge candidates and all those applying to very competitive university courses to take an active interest in developing their knowledge and passion for their chosen subject area and extension sessions can be provided in all departments if required.

To help support SGHS students in this highly competitive process all Year 13 students applying for Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science participated in an interview preparation day which consisted of students taking part in mock interviews tailored specifically for their choice of university course.

Sixth Form Team



"Interviews are incredibly daunting, especially without any prior experience, and so the opportunity to have mock interviews gave me a real insight into what it would be like for real. It developed my ability to think on my feet whilst coping with nerves and how to structure answers to back up my points. The feedback was personal and made me conscious of areas such as body language and mannerisms, and both interviewers were really friendly and supportive. Being able to observe my peers during their mock interviews meant that I could hear their varying perspectives and ideas that I hadn't previously thought of. For me, mock interviews were the best way to prepare for the real ones, as skills such as being able to argue your points can't be taught in a book and are essential during medical interviews as interviewers like to test your ability to cope in high pressure situations. Overall the mock interviews have been a really useful experience and have helped me feel ready for my upcoming interviews - so a big thank you for all the support!"

Namwa Wongkalasin – Year 13

Friday 7th February 2020

CURRY & QUIZ NIGHT!

- All funds raised go towards the school's water fountains in school
- Includes a delicious Indian buffet of chicken drumsticks, fish masala, veg pakoras, chicken curry, veg curry, naan bread and mint sauce
- Licensed bar
- Prizes to be won

Pit your wits against the Teachers!

7.00pm in the School Hall

Please pay through Parent Pay.
Adults and Sixth Formers welcome.



TICKETS
£10
per person

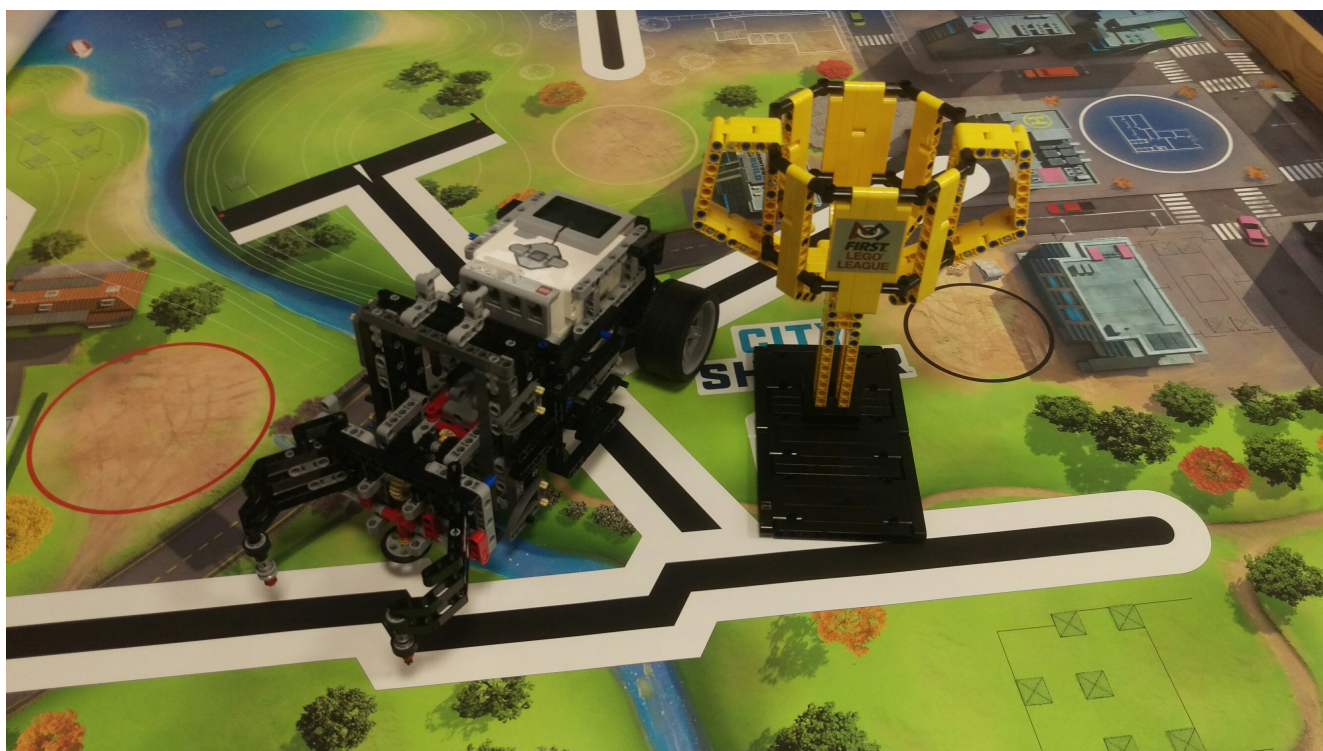
Friends
of SGHS 

Contact friends@sghs.org.uk for info or to volunteer on the night

— SKIPTON GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL • 01756 707600 —

First Lego League Robotics Competition

On Wednesday 18th December we took two teams of KS3 and 4 students to the regional heats for First Lego League Robotics Competition at the University of Bradford. This year's theme was called City Shaper and the two teams had 3 main tasks to complete, Core Values, City Shaper Project and Robotics task. Both teams put in some amazing performances; project presentations were well thought out and there were really clever solutions to problems such as transport, homelessness and renewable energy. Both teams got their best ever robot round scores with one team getting third place, which is excellent. Team T won the best Robot design category which makes it the fourth consecutive year that the teams have come away with a trophy. Well done to all involved and have a great Christmas break.



Politics Gathering

Today's society never fails to provide political turmoil, and growing up in such times means that we should all be informed and active in processes that will change our futures. With the looming threat of the climate crisis, as well as the potential far-reaching impacts of Brexit, it matters more and more that the youth should be engaged in current affairs.

Our Year 12 politics class had this in mind when we organised a mock election for school. We wanted to show all of our students what was going on in the world around them, and why we are living through such an important moment in history - and so in gathering, we presented the background and circumstances of the current general election. Although the majority of SGHS cannot vote in real life, we felt it was vital that they could still voice an opinion. In our gathering we explained the manifestos of each political party, with each of us as a representative.

Now that our students were fully informed, we wanted to make our election experience realistic and engaging. We decided to create a mock 'register to vote' form online, and each person who had registered was given a vote card to be used on 12th December. By the time this is published, we will have our results from polling day!

I'd like to say a massive thank you to our entire class for helping to put this together, but especially to Megan Fawcett-Bruce and Phoebe Cookson whose efforts have gone above and beyond. Hopefully we have succeeded in bringing more awareness to the school about current events and the hugely important decisions being made that will influence us; and I'm glad students have been given the opportunity to actively voice their views.

Ruby Firth
Year 12

SGHS Mock General Election Results

72% of students voted

1. Labour (42%)
2. Green (25%)
3. Conservatives (18%)
4. Liberal Democrats (14%)
5. Brexit Party (1%)



Friends' End of Term Update

Wow! What a great term! With all your fantastic support the Friends' group have **raised over £4,400** this term alone for school projects. Funds accrued from whole school photo sales, pop-up cafes, the Game Show Night and the Christmas craft stalls. Amazing teamwork everyone.

We are pleased now that the full £3,300 raised to revamp the main stage has been handed over to school. This money will be used to put in a new blackout stage backdrop and hang new stage curtains. They will be up and ready for the **Romeo & Juliet** production in March 2020!

A cheque has also been written for **£1,080 to the Hardship Fund**. These funds were raised from the sale of **150 club numbers** in 2019. Thank you to all those who have supported this initiative. New membership is now available for this coming year, 2020.

If you haven't already renewed your membership, but want to stand a chance of winning a cash prize each month in 2020 (prize money: £40, £25 & £10 respectively), why not check the school website and pay via ParentPay to enter the draw? All funds raised go back into SGHS's Hardship Fund to support students at school.

We have some fantastic socials and fundraisers in the pipeline for 2020 too!

Next up is our popular **Curry & Quiz night on Friday, 7th February 2020** at 7pm. Tickets cost £10 including supper. We are extremely grateful to Shaena Shan & family for her enormous generosity providing the curry buffet on the night. SGHS' Maths department teachers will be our quiz masters this year so it should be as entertaining and challenging as ever! Licensed bar, raffle, and prizes to be won. We hope to see you there.

All funds go towards the installation of two new water fountains in school - much needed by our students.

Plans are afoot for the popular **Mother's Day Market**, the **Year & 8 Disco** and a **Spring Ceilidh** (TBC). Watch this space!

The next Friends' meeting is in the school library at 6.30pm, 8th January 2020. All parents welcome and new parents especially so!

We wish you a relaxing & joyful winter break.

Friends of SGHS
friends@sghs.org.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS 2019/20

Friday 7th February

Quiz & Curry Night
7.00pm

**Thursday 19th - Friday
20th March**

Mother's Day Market, Café
Quad, Lunchtime and
Breaks

Friday 27th March (TBC)

Spring Year 7 & 8 Disco,
7.00pm - 9.00pm

March/April

Easter Hamper Raffle

Friday 24th April

Spring Ceilidh & Evening
Buffet (TBC)

July (TBC)

Summer Celebration & Art
Exhibition



Fundraising for New Food Technology Equipment



A whole host of new equipment has been purchased by the Food Nutrition and Preparation department after following Friends of SGHS fundraising efforts.

Pictured are:

- 4 x pasta machines
- 12 x weighing scales (digital)
- 6 x hand blenders
- 4 x thermometers
- 3 x garlic crushers

...with more still to come!

Photos from Friends' Game Show Night





150 CLUB

Launching the brand new 150 Club

The 150 Club is a great way to support the school's Hardship Fund whilst having a bit of a flutter!

MEMBERSHIP

£20 FOR 12 MONTHLY DRAWS

How does it work?

- £20 payment via ParentPay or by membership form & payment to school reception (see Friends' page for form & info: www.sghs.org.uk)
- Three numbers drawn each month and winners will be notified monthly

For queries contact:
150club@sghs.org.uk

1ST PRIZE **£40**

2ND PRIZE **£25**

3RD PRIZE **£10**

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE OVER 16

Our Curriculum

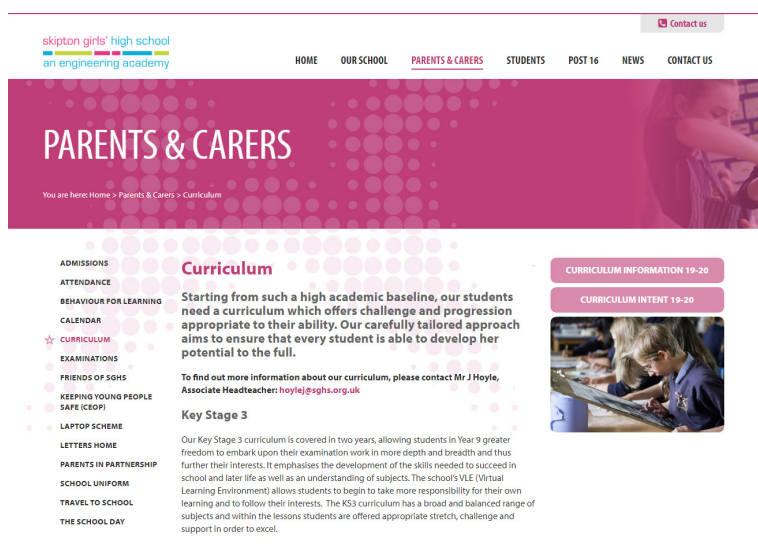
Colleagues at Skipton Girls' High School put a lot of effort into thinking about the order, content and assessment of what they teach in each subject. We are also committed to keeping parents and students well informed about what is planned for students and I thought it would be useful to signpost/remind where you can find further information if you are interested.

On our website in the parental area there is information about each year group and what students are taught in each subject. It includes information about the exam boards that are followed at Key Stages 4 and 5.

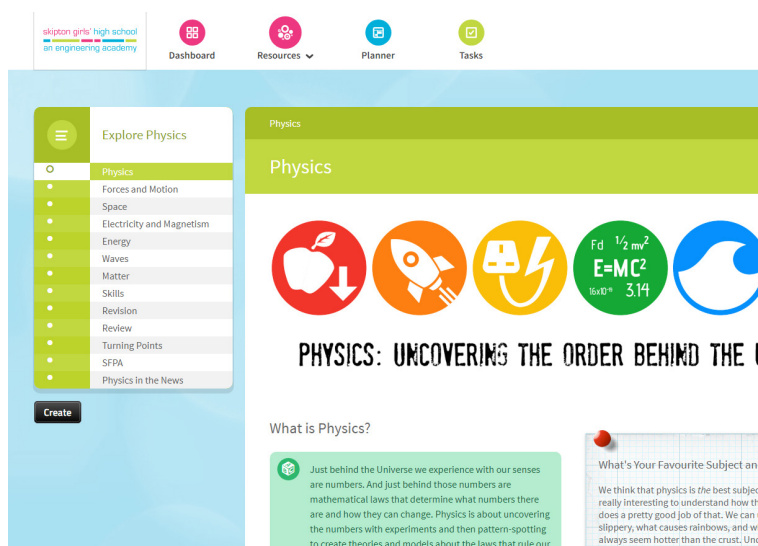
All parents have access to our Virtual Learning Platform known as Firefly. Especially for Key Stage 3, if you would like to see in detail what is planned in each curriculum area and examples of the standards we are looking for when we are assessing students' knowledge and skill development then this is the place to visit. In the student area there is a section called Key Stage 3 Assessment where there are a range of resources. If you would like to know what is learnt at Key Stages 4 and 5 the exam boards provide a syllabus and exemplar exams but there is even more information available on Firefly in the subject areas.

I hope our newsletter gives a flavour of what is on offer in terms of our extra-curricular provision. There have already been some great trips to extend student's learning and I have seen some fabulous work being done in our local community by many of our students not to mention all the other efforts made by students and staff to help give everyone at SGHS a range of opportunities.

Mr Hoyle
Assistant Headteacher



(Above) The parental area of our website has an overview of what students are taught in each subject.



(Above) For an indepth look at what is taught in each subject area, parents and students can log into our Virtual Learning Environment called Firefly and explore our curriculum.





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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