

HASLINGDEN HIGHLIGHTS

Haslingden High School & Sixth
Form termly magazine



A message from the Headteacher

Dear parent/carer

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Haslingden Highlights magazine. We hope that it gives you an insight into the life of our school since returning in September. It's the end of term and I think it's fair to say that there is a great deal to celebrate. Our whole school community has continued to work together to offer the best possible experience for your children in very difficult circumstances, and we greatly appreciate your continued support. We are extremely proud of the resilience our students have shown throughout this term. Our Year 7s have made an excellent start to their Haslingden High School career and Year 11 and Year 13 students have demonstrated a genuine willingness to prepare for their upcoming examinations.

Our school has regained some of its soul, with extra-curricular activities once again delivering a much broader and richer curriculum, that students have embraced wholeheartedly. We were delighted to be able to host the school show and the school concert and know that all the students involved, who dedicated significant time and energy to these events, took a great deal from the experience. They were without doubt a tremendous credit to the school. Similarly, these events are only made possible by the hard work, generosity and commitment of our fantastic staff. The drama and music departments, expressive arts faculty and the volunteers from across the school were all equally wonderful. Thank you and well done to all involved... another resounding success!

During the final week, we delivered around 30 Christmas hampers in the local community, along with donations to five local charities thanks to the generosity of our staff, students and families. We saw a wide range of our talented musicians performing in the school concert, had our Christmas dinner, brought the Sixth Form University Challenge to an exciting finale and were entertained by the Xmas Factor show.

It would be accurate to suggest that this term has not been without its challenges. Student and staff attendance have been impacted significantly in recent weeks, and this has inevitably placed a huge strain on our staff and our collective capacity to meet the daily demands of running a school. It is fair to say that looking around last week, I could see many exhausted colleagues who have worked tirelessly to 'fill the gaps' and make sure we continue to meet the needs of all our students and their families. As a parent myself, I also know just how difficult and, at times, exhausting it has been to get back to life as normal amidst the ongoing effects of Covid on so many aspects of our life. We sincerely hope the festive break will allow our whole school community the chance to spend quality time with their families and to take the opportunity to 'recharge the batteries'.

We know that this time of year, whilst it can offer many positive moments, this is not always the case for everyone. We remain determined to support the emotional wellbeing of our students and seek to do this well beyond the school gates and the school day. Kooth, the online mental wellbeing service, has recently published two very helpful documents, both of which can be found in the 'emotional wellbeing' section of the website. The first is entitled 'Kooth: A handy guide for parents and carers' that details early warning signs, and the second, 'Top tips' on how to talk to your children about their feelings. There is also advice and guidance for your child via our new-look student bulletin – Student Zone (available on student iPads) – should they need it.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding and we look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Best wishes

Russell Clarke
Headteacher

Extra Curricular Activities



It's so lovely to have lots of extra curricular activities up and running again!
Here's just a snapshot of what we've been up to...



Our U15 girls football team have been playing (and winning!) lots of matches in the ESFA cup

We had a whole host of students representing school in the cross country



Our Y11 students enjoyed a production of Blood Brothers at The Lowry Theatre.

We have a new badminton club!



Extra Curricular Activities



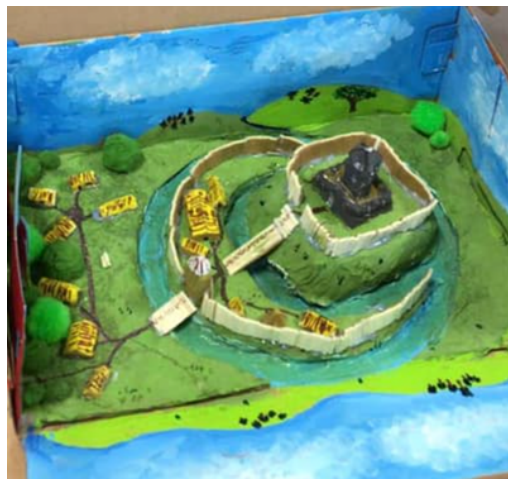
Our U14 girls have been playing in the Lancashire Cup



We've had a form 'Bake Off' Challenge!



We were able to pay our respects for Remembrance Day



Year 7 students have been creative with their castle projects in history lessons

Extra Curricular Activities



Mr Wood organised a Sixth Form University Challenge



Year 8 art students have been creating Alebrijes - that's Mexican spirit animals - which were displayed on the night of our school show.

School Council



Our School Council is well underway with their new projects. This term, as part of Local Democracy week, they've met with the Mayor of Rossendale, Jackie Oakes.

The students were able to take part in a mock-up of a real committee meeting to decide on four applications for community grants, taking into account all aspects involved in each application, before settling on their decision.

Cllr Oakes said, "It was a very interesting afternoon, and I admired the mature approach taken by the children who ranged in age from 12 to 17.

They realised that in awarding the money to one group they had to disappoint the other three, and that's a heavy responsibility for committee members. I took the opportunity to point out that the School Council comprises nine pupils, and, had they followed our local trend then only three people would have voted as the turnout in Rossendale local elections is only around 30 per cent. Consequently, three people would have made the funding decision for the borough. Food for thought that I suggested they take home to their parents!"

Wellbeing



Community Challenge!

Our two-year wellbeing strategy is well underway, the first stage being 'Connect with People'.

This term, students were given a form challenge, whereby all tasks on the Community Challenge poster had to be completed and the first form to complete all challenges would win a prize. Not only that, all forms who completed the challenge received a form time breakfast.



Forms 7P and 9P were the first forms to complete all tasks, followed closely by 8T. Well done, everyone!

Wellbeing



Connect with people

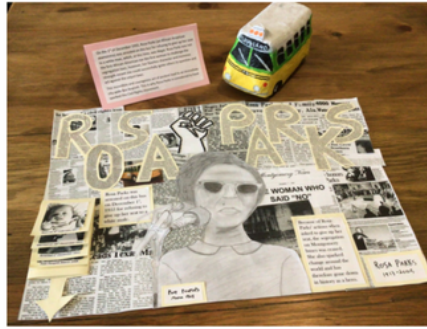
Black History Month Competition Winners

We have received some excellent entries this year and as the standard was so high it was very challenging selecting our final winners.

Congratulations to the following students who have shown a high level of skill and creativity along with effectively highlighting the lives of some of the heroes from the black community.



KS3 Winners Hayden Henderson and Yasmin Yodal



KS4 Winners Oliver Flood and Sheenah Kalam



Sixth Form Winner
Marie Harrison

We ran an art competition to celebrate Black History month

Staff were invited to wear yellow to support Young Minds and raised £216.40 for the charity



The Lodge!

This year's drama production was made up of two contrasting short plays, written by the drama staff and linked by a character, theme or idea. 'The Lodge' tells the story of two very different families, each of whom wins a mysterious luxury 'staycation' at 'The Lodge'- a holiday woodland retreat not too far from here. On arrival, however, both sets of guests don't quite get the experience they are expecting and end up finding out a lot more about each other as a consequence!

Staff and students worked really hard since we returned to school in September to create the upper and lower school productions. If you did manage to see the show(s), we hope you will agree, it was a fantastic production. We are so very lucky to have such talented staff and students and can't thank everybody enough for their hard work and dedication. What a show!



Christmas Activities



As always, the run up to Christmas has been a busy one here at Haslingden. We've had our annual Christmas dinner, school music concert, Xmas Factor, hamper collections and we even managed a visit from the big man himself.





In Rossendale, we are running a **free holiday club programme** for children and young people who receive free school meals.

Come and enjoy fun activities, healthy meals, meet new people and learn new skills.

Sessions run Monday 20th to Thursday 23rd December.

Holiday activities for primary and secondary school age young people, and a programme for young people with disabilities delivered in partnership with Cribden House.

Online registrations open from 29th November 2021

For more information and to register visit www.rltrust.co.uk/haf



HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES
AND FOOD PROGRAMME



Department
for Education