

# George Hastwell School

## NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2018



### Welcome to our December newsletter

#### Hello and goodbye



We have welcomed several new pupils to the school this term — Malaki, Stacey, Jackson, Jamie, Maxwell, Robert, Sam, Jake and Kyle. We have also welcomed some new members of staff — Stephanie, Natalie and Jacqui who have taken up roles as midday assistants and cleaner.

We hope they will all enjoy their time at George Hastwell.

### Headteacher's message

It has been an extremely busy and exciting term at George Hastwell. We were all very excited to find ourselves on *BBC NorthWest Tonight* in November when we took part in the Plod for Pudsey. This generated some interest from the Evening Mail who have been very kind in publishing articles on our Sixth Form Awards Ceremony and on music therapy at the school.

Our signing choir performed enthusiastically at St Columba's Church, and we have decided to run the choir for the whole school year, which will give us lots of opportunities to practise and to improve pupils' and staff signing. We hope to be able to perform at more local events in the coming months.

Our teachers have begun working on revising the school's curriculum this term. We have also been transferring pupil progress data to a new online system called SOLAR.

We have continued with our values assemblies, and we have now agreed some whole school values which will be launched in January. These will form the basis of lots of our work in school and will help the pupils to understand key principles such as respect and fairness.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing all our pupils again on Tuesday 8th January.

Best wishes,

Karen Baxter



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George  
Hastwell  
School

## Class names

As we have had several new pupils in the school this autumn, and some pupils and staff have moved classes, we decided to re-name our class groups. Our new classes have a tree theme and are:

- Acorn—Mrs Bower and Mrs Stephenson
- Cherry Blossom—Miss Jamieson
- Hawthorn—Mr Teasdale
- Silver Birch—Mrs Diaz
- Elm—Mr Fothergill
- Willow—Mrs Fisher and Mrs MacKenzie
- Oak—Mr Park and Mrs Stephenson

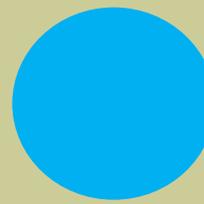
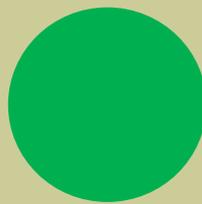
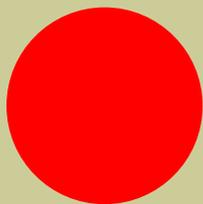


## Houses

As part of our work on pupil leadership, we have allocated all of our pupils and staff into houses—red, yellow, green and blue.

Our Sixth Form pupils will be the house leaders.

Across the year we hope to organise some house activities which will allow the pupils to work with others from across the whole school.



## Tour of Britain

On 7th September some of our classes went to watch the Tour of Britain cycle race in Barrow Town Centre. Two of our pupils took part in a cycling event at the beginning of the race.



## Barrow AFC

Some of the footballers from Barrow AFC came to visit us in September. The next day some of our families enjoyed watching the Barrow v Maidenhead game, thanks to the Bluebirds Schools Initiative who provided free tickets.



## Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival took place on 15th October. Thank you to all those who donated food, which was collected by the Barrow Foodbank. Altogether the donations made 152 meals for those in need in Barrow.



## MacMillan Café

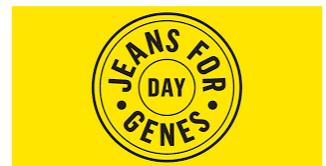
We had a fantastic turnout for our MacMillan Café in October, which was organised by our Sixth Form pupils and staff. Some of our pupils use the event as an opportunity to gather evidence for their ASDAN award challenges.

Thank you to everyone who came and supported us on the afternoon. Your donations helped us to raise more than £200 for MacMillan Cancer support.



## Jeans for Genes

On 21st September we took part in Jeans for Genes day. Pupils and staff members wore jeans for the day to raise funds money and awareness of children with genetic disorders. On the day we raised £48.90, and we had a special assembly in the afternoon about the Jeans for Genes charity.



## Acorn class

Last week Acorn class organised a special sensory session and invited parents to take part in the activities in the sensory room and join the children for snack.



## Live Music Now

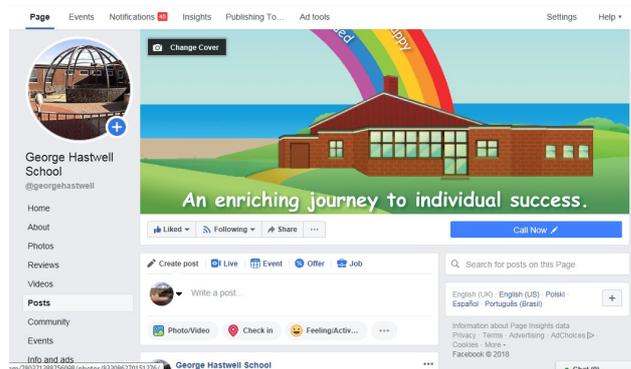
In November we had a visit from Bird and the Family Bryan, who were kindly sponsored by Live Music Now. All the classes enjoyed the interactive music sessions.



## News

### Facebook page

Our Facebook page now has more than 400 likes and is a good way to find out what has been happening in the school and about upcoming events.



### Building improvements

In the summer there was a significant amount of building work in the school. Most of this was funded by two successful bids to the Conditions Improvement Fund. The flat roof areas were replaced, and all of the pupil toilets and assisted changing areas were upgraded. In addition, several classrooms were decorated and some of the windows replaced in toilet areas and the hall.

### Friends Group and Parents' Group

Our Friends Group is now meeting regularly to plan events and fundraisers in school.

We are also planning to start a parents' support group in the New Year in conjunction with Furness Carers. Look out for letters about the group and for news on our Facebook page.

### Fundraising

**We have received several donations from organisations, including:**

Walney Churches Together Concert collection—£250

BAE—£100

Williams family—£50



## Sixth Form Awards Ceremony

At the Sixth Form Awards Ceremony on 9th November, we presented awards to last year's Post 16 leavers. Students received Entry Level certificates in English, Maths, ICT, and Employability; ASDAN Personal Development awards at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels; and ASDAN Towards Independence.



## Plod for Pudsey

We were very excited to be involved in the Plod for Pudsey on 12th November with BBC NorthWest. We met presenters Roger Johnson and Annabel Tiffin, reported Ian Haslam, and of course Pudsey Bear himself.



## Oak class's busy term

Half of the class have been attending a catering course at Furness College on Wednesday mornings whilst the others have been working on food technology in school.



In November the group attend a Boccia Tournament in Kendal. They played six games and all enjoyed the experience.



They have worked hard over the last few weeks rehearsing a Christmas play, and performed it for the school last week. It was called "Santa's Cookie Problem." Everyone enjoyed the enthusiastic performances.



## Signing choir

On 6th December the signing choir performed at the Walney Churches Together concert at St Columba's Church. They went down a storm with their enthusiastic performance. Thank you to everyone who supported the concert and to Cheryl for leading the choir. If you are on Facebook, our videos are on the George Hastwell School page.



## Carol service

Our carol service took place on Monday 17th December at St Mary's Church, Walney. The students did us proud with songs, carols and poems and the signing choir also performed. We had a blessing by the Reverend Amy. Thank you all at St Mary's for allowing us to use the church and for their support on the day.



## Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair on 14th December organised by the Friends Group was a great success. There were tombolas, a raffle, plus stalls from classes who had been busy with Christmas crafts. The café and cake stall were popular. Pupils from several classes had the opportunity to serve the customers by helping on the stalls.

We raised around £600 on the day. Thank you to the staff, pupils and parents who donated goods, helped in the days leading up to the fair and on the day itself.



## Christmas dinner



Christmas dinner took place on 13th December, and pupils and staff enjoyed the lunch provided by Walney School kitchen. We even had Santa as our special guest!

## The MAT Board Chair Writes

I am delighted to write to you as the new Chair of the QKS Mat Board; I was honoured to be elected Chair in October and pledge to do my very best for all the students, parents and staff in our three schools.



Due to family illness, Liz Moffatt needed to give priority to her family and therefore reluctantly resigned from the chair and board. Liz will be a hard act to follow, she had a distinguished career in education and the QKS MAT were enormously fortunate to benefit from her leadership, expertise and experience. Liz will remain as a Member of our MAT Trust and will therefore continue to be involved in setting the future strategic direction of the Trust. Thank you Liz for your wise leadership, hard work and commitment to our three schools.

Eddie Richards was elected as Vice Chair; he is also the Chair of George Hastwell School Local Governing Body and a member of the Walney School Governing Body. Eddie and I along with Anna Gregg, Tony Sinton, Joanne Heather and Steve Wilkinson form the QKS MAT Board of Trustees. If you would like to know more about us, you can read our profiles <https://www.qksmat.org.uk/mat-team>

We are delighted to have secured support for our two secondary schools from a National Leader of Education and CEO of Endeavour Trust in Lancashire, Lesley Gwinnett. We are confident the schools will benefit tremendously from her involvement and schools will rapidly continue to get even better than they are now. Paul Slater is our Assistant CEO for this academic year and is working with all three schools on their school improvement agenda.

It's going to be a busy year as the Trust will be considering developments for the future and we will update everyone via the regular newsletters.

Thank you for your continued support and please do get in touch via Sharon Housego [S.Housego@queenkatherine.org](mailto:S.Housego@queenkatherine.org) if you have any questions or suggestions.

I would like to say big thank you to all our staff for all your hard work and for providing a vibrant and rich learning environment in all our schools, to our students for being such great young people and to parents for all you do in supporting your children in their learning.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas, enjoy the holidays and we look forward to see everyone back in January for an exciting New Year of learning.

Beth Curl

## The CEO Writes:-

All three of our schools have had an excellent start to the term, being fully staffed and having benefited from improvements to the fabric of the buildings over the summer break. The Autumn term has been extremely eventful in all our schools as you will read in the individual Christmas Newsletters. I thank all our staff and students for their hard work and thank parents, Governors and Trustees for all their support as we move our schools to the next stage in their journey to Good and beyond.



There have been changes at Trust level with Liz Moffatt stepping down as a Trustee but remaining a Trust Member. We thank Liz for all her work for the Trust as a previous member of the Local Governing Body at Walney School and then as Chair of the Trust. Beth Curl, our previous Vice Chair, was elected Chair of the Trust at our first meeting of the year. Eddie Richards was elected Vice Chair of the Trust. He was also appointed Chair of George Hastwell's Local Governing Body. Anna Gregg continues as Chair of QKS Local Governing Body and Tony Sinton of Walney's.

The MAT Board is working closely with the Regional School's Commissioner and are looking carefully at the strategic direction of the Trust in light of my intended retirement as CEO this academic year.

Stephen Wilkinson

Chief Executive Officer