

November 2025 Edition

Welcome to this month's edition of **Beverley Highlife**. I hope that you will enjoy reading about what has been happening this month at Beverley High School.

Sharon Japp, Headteacher



Regional Bar Mock Trial Winners

Early in the Autumn term, ten students from across Key Stage 4 started to prepare for the Bar Mock Trial competition. The competition involves students fighting two hypothetical criminal cases against other schools and 6th form colleges, taking on the roles of key figures in court such as barristers and witnesses.



To help with their preparation, we were very lucky to have Benjamin Hammersley, a barrister from Hull Crown Chambers, once again volunteer his time to come into school to run a workshop. As part of this, he discussed what his job entails and talked the students through how to approach analysing and arguing a case, using general details and extracts from the speeches of a recent one he's fought as an example. Mr Hammersley also watched the students rehearse, providing valuable advice and was impressed with what they'd prepared.

The competition itself took place on Saturday 29 November at Leeds Magistrates' Court and we are extremely pleased to announce that the Beverley High School team won! Their success means that they now progress on to the national final which is likely to take place in March in London, hopefully at the Royal Courts of Justice where previous finals have been held.

Eleven other schools and colleges took part in the Leeds regional heat and our students were some of the youngest competitors. The standard of the competition was extremely high, making it all the more impressive that our team was successful. Their success reflected the sheer effort, dedication and commitment that they had all put into their preparation. The attitude of the team on the day was also excellent – they conducted themselves maturely but enthusiastically throughout the day, and it was lovely to see them all sitting around together playing cards during their lunch break!

The team's success couldn't be more well-deserved and we are extremely proud of them.

Winning Politics Students

Well done to Archie R, Logan A, Molly H and Ben P from the J6th for winning the 'There ought to be a law' competition at the Hull University Politics Conference on Friday. Their entry 'Education Equality Act' was designed and drafted by them to address educational inequalities in attainment within England through targeted funding (raised through tax changes), and a redistribution of resources and subsidies towards more deprived areas.

Archie did an excellent job of presenting their ideas to the audience, who then voted for the legislation they wanted to see become law, out of the different finalists.

The competition was part of a day at the university where the Politics students from all over the region got to find out about what it is like to study the subject at degree level, as well as have the chance to meet local politicians in a Question Time style session, and have a presentation from John Curtice - the UK's voting behaviour expert.



English Speaking Union (ESU): Public Speaking Competition

After a fortnight's preparation, members of our Joint KS4 Debate Club met on a cold Wednesday night to take part in the ESU's annual competition for Years 9-11.

Round 1 of the competition took place online, and our two teams effectively collaborated with pupils from schools in York and Leeds in order to deliver presentations to the judging panel, on a wide range of topics.

Feedback from the judges included our students' ability to create a warm and friendly atmosphere, and demonstrate real interest in the topics as Chairs. While our Questioners were praised for their probing questions and their encouraging and friendly manner. This is even more impressive given that it all took place over Zoom!

Out of eight competing teams, four teams were selected for Round 2, including our Team B. This is a significant achievement as the standard was very high, and this is the students' first year in this national competition. The next round will take place in mid/late January, or early February.

Congratulations to all our participants; the way you worked together under pressure and supported each other was a joy to watch. And good luck for Round 2, Team B!

Team A: Chair - Kitty A, Speaker - Ross (BGS), Questioner - Gabby G

Team B (through to Round 2): Chair - Daisy B, Speaker - Jacob (BGS), Questioner - Emily M



London 2025

A packed itinerary saw 61 Year 12 & 13 students and 6 staff visit the Natural History Museum, the V and A and the Science Museum as well as enjoying a ride on the London Eye and a river cruise, over a two day visit to London. The highlight for many was the chance to see the West End musical *Hamilton* at the Victoria Palace Theatre.

One Year 12 student wrote this about the visit:

“I loved the trip to London, I became closer with a lot of my friends and saw some amazing sights. It was all very well organised and ran really smoothly. The Youth Hostel we stayed at was in the perfect location for us to be able to see everything without having to travel very far, and we were looked after by all of the staff. I will definitely be interested in going again next year because it was so enjoyable. “



Geography Fieldwork

At the end of last month, our Year 10 Geographers set off to the historic city of York for a full day of fieldwork as part of their GCSE Geography course. The visit provided an excellent opportunity for students to apply their classroom learning to a real urban environment, exploring how land use varies across the city and assessing environmental quality in different areas.

Throughout the day, students worked in groups to carry out a range of primary data collection techniques, including land-use surveys, environmental quality surveys, questionnaires and pedestrian counts. Their aim was to investigate whether York can be considered a sustainable tourist city, using the evidence they gathered to support their conclusions back in the classroom.



The weather was kind to us, spirits were high, and students demonstrated real enthusiasm and maturity from start to finish. They were engaged, curious, and keen to discuss their findings as they moved through different parts of the city. Not only did they collect valuable data for their GCSE studies, but they also enjoyed the chance to explore one of the UK's most fascinating and historic urban centres.

A particular highlight of the day was stumbling across the Freedom Parade. Students gathered outside Betty's Tea Rooms to watch the marching band and soak up the atmosphere — an unexpected bonus that added to the sense of occasion.

Overall, it was a highly successful and enjoyable trip. Our students returned with stronger fieldwork skills, greater confidence in geographical enquiry, and plenty of insights to support their upcoming assessments. Well done, Year 10 — a fantastic effort from all involved.



Celebration Evening

Tuesday 25th November saw this year's Beverley High School Celebration Event take place. A chance for last year's Year 11 to celebrate their achievements in GCSEs and for many to receive additional awards from individual subjects.

Almost half the year group attended, and with parents as well, approximately two hundred people joined us in the transformed Sports Hall. On entering students reconnected with their tutors before taking their seats at the smart tables laid out around the room; swish table cloths, atmospheric table-lighting, colour programmes and even a few chocolate treats. A stage was erected and images of the students throughout their time at the school played on the screen above.

The event started with Ms Japp introducing our celebrity guest, TV and radio presenter and former Beverley High School student, Lindsey Chapman. Lindsey shared stories of her time at school, what it was like to work on Springwatch Unsprung, The Big Blue etc and exactly what the presenter does hear in their earpiece during a live show! There were exciting clips from her commentary on the international netball, which is one of her passions. In addition, there were important insights into the lessons learned through her experiences, and guidance she had felt helpful in her career.

The main and most special part of the evening was the presenting of GCSE results and awards to everyone present. Every student was applauded for their achievements. These spanned all the subjects, high achievement, incredible progress and mostly, an amazing attitude towards learning. The whole year group did the school proud not just those that were present on the evening. The Head Girl imparted her reflections on her time at the school; Mr Colton shared stories of those who received the special awards; and Lindsey Chapman spent time talking with individuals and congratulating them.

It was a wonderful evening and many people including caretakers, the IT technician, office staff, form tutors and department representatives presenting and teachers nominating were needed to make the event work so well. The most credit though goes to Kerry Habbershaw, who is absolutely central to organising every aspect of the event and worked tirelessly for weeks and until the last person left on the night & Liz Wilson, Head of Year, who presented and managed the event so skilfully.

Truly, a memorable event for all involved. One parent who emailed after the event reflected on "a beautiful celebration. The staff put so much effort into the event. Such a lovely warm and caring school."



FairActive Schools Award

We are pleased to say that we have now been awarded the 'FairActive Schools' award which is the second of the three Fairtrade awards that schools may apply for.

To receive the award, our school needed to demonstrate its commitment to raising awareness of Fairtrade. This was done by our students taking part in a range of activities which our Fairtrade Committee led:

- a Year 8 assembly which raised awareness of what Fairtrade is
- a Fairtrade bake-sale
- a Fairtrade art competition where students donated 50p to enter a piece of artwork themed around Fairtrade. This was advertised to Key Stage 3 & 4 by posters and a PowerPoint that also raised awareness of what Fairtrade is.



The Fairtrade Committee is a part of the Global Citizenship club which meets on a Tuesday lunchtime in SF2 and we are now starting to work towards the final award, alongside working on other global projects. Students from all year groups can take part and any new members would be very welcome.

The Queen's Commonwealth Essay competition

In May, a number of students from Years 7 and 8 took part in the Queen's Commonwealth Essay competition. This is the world's oldest international competition and encourages students to reflect upon global issues and the positive influence that individuals can have.

This year's theme was 'Our Commonwealth Journey' and students were given a number of topics that they could choose from, relating to making journeys and discovering new information about different countries and cultures.



There were an incredible 53,434 entries from students across the 56 member countries of the Commonwealth this year and we are pleased to say that nine of our students won Bronze Awards, eight won Silver, and one won Gold.

We are extremely proud of all of our students who entered and a future edition of our student publication *Inspire* will celebrate some of the fantastic pieces of writing that were produced.

Exploring GIS in the Geography Department - from Classrooms to Careers.

GIS (Geographic Information Systems) helps us to understand places, solve problems and make informed decisions. Our Year 12 A-Level class welcomed Richard Howe, a GIS consultant from RSK BioCensus in Leeds. Invited through the Royal Geographical Society's Ambassador Programme, Richard shared his career journey, his current work in environmental data analysis, and the growing importance of GIS across industries. Students gained valuable insight into how digital mapping supports the Ministry of Defence, energy exploration and ecological projects.

It isn't just the sixth form exploring GIS. Our Year 7 students are currently using Digimaps, an entry level GIS software for schools, to design a *tourism trail of our local area*. They have been plotting routes, calculating distances, and adding descriptions and photographs to create interactive maps showcasing key points of interest. This project is helping them develop early skills in spatial thinking, digital mapping and communicating geographical information. We look forward to seeing their completed projects in the coming weeks!



Kindness in our Community

East Yorkshire Foodbank was very grateful for a bake sale held recently at Beverley High School which raised almost £50 for this very worthy cause.

Inter-House Baking Competition

This month we held another one of our annual Inter-House Baking Competitions. This competition saw one student from each form group work alongside other students in their House to produce a selection of iced biscuits. It was a very successful challenge with outstanding final results. The biscuits demonstrated a variety of colours and images to link them to each House. The overall winners were Pat Albeck (PA) House. Congratulations to Annie, Tilly, Keziah and Daisy! All the students who took part should be really proud of their efforts.



J6th Open Evening at Beverley Grammar School

We were delighted to welcome lots of Year 11 students and their parents and carers to Beverley Grammar School on Wednesday 19 November to find out more about life as a J6th student. Year 11s had the chance to meet current students, talk about their A level choices and find out about the wide range of enrichment opportunities available, as well as the support offered to students applying to Oxford and Cambridge and to Medicine and Medicine-related courses.

We look forward to welcoming current Year 11 as Year 12 students in September 2026.



William Ackroyd Scholarship

We were delighted that Year 13 student, Amelia B, took part in in this year's William Ackroyd Open Scholarship essay writing competition. The Foundation was created in the bequest of a Yorkshire clergyman who died in 1518, and the Scholarship has existed for many generations. Candidates have two hours to write an essay of their choice from a wide range of topics. Titles in previous years have included, "Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world." (P.B. Shelley, poet.) In what ways do creative artists (in any field, not just poets) create or change our ideas, perceptions or attitudes? Give examples' and What are the advantages and disadvantages of different voting systems? Which would be the best for electing UK governments?

UCAS and Mock Interviews

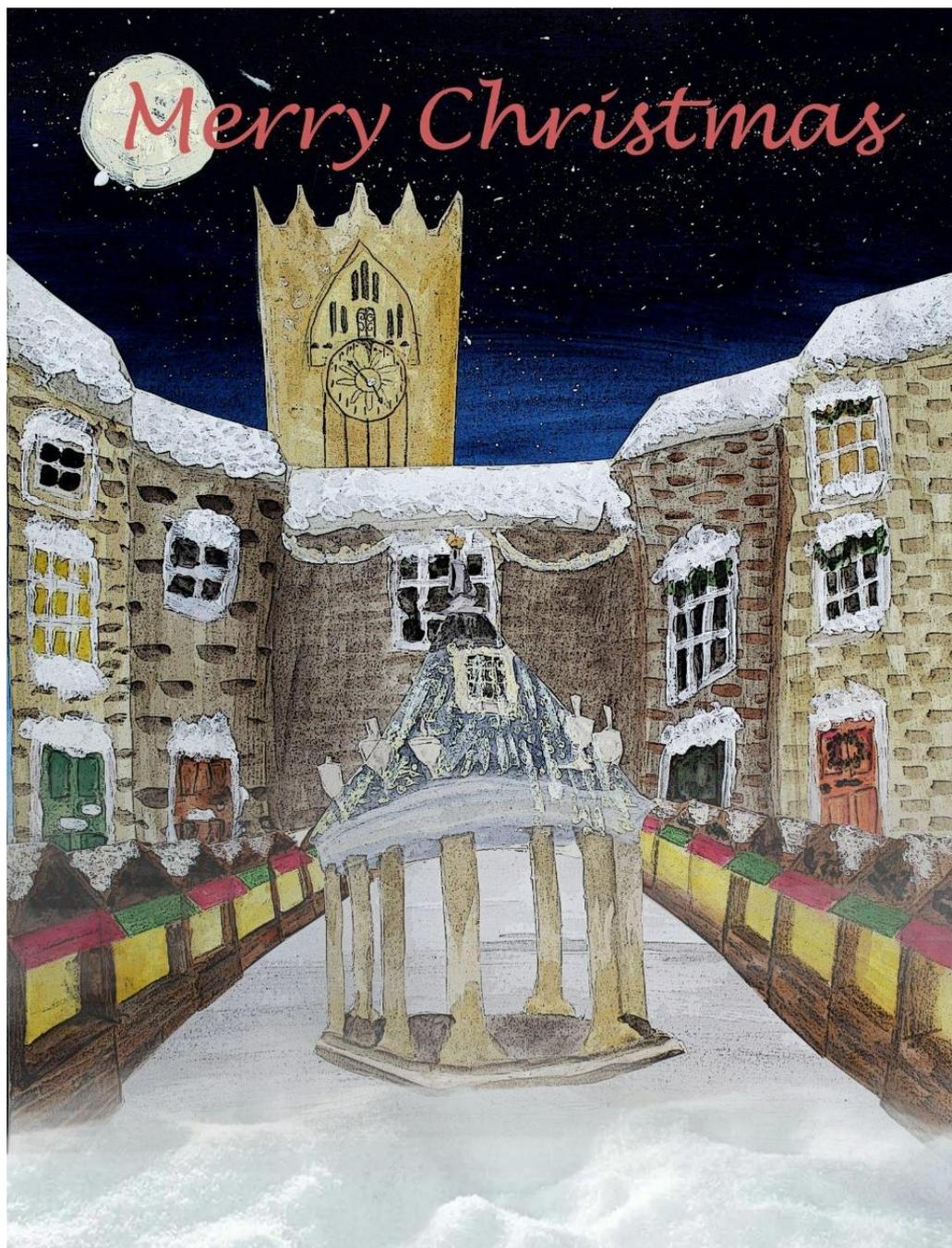
The university application process is well underway for Year 13 students and the J6th team have organised a number of opportunities for our early entry applicants to Medicine, Vet Science and Oxford and Cambridge to help them prepare for their interviews. We were delighted to welcome Mansfield College last week who gave a very useful interview workshop and this week 15 students have taken part in mock interviews either face to face or online with a wide range of volunteers from local primary schools, the University of Hull as well as the legal and medical profession. We are very grateful to these volunteers who gave up their time to support our students. One student wrote, 'I've just finished my mock interview which was really helpful. Thank you so much for organising it, it has been an invaluable experience. I really did appreciate the interviewer's time and advice.'

Inter-House Art Competition

On Friday 21 November the Art Department ran an Inter- House Art Competition. The brief was for four students, one from each of Years 7, 8, 9 and 10, to work together to design a Christmas card. The students had three hours from start to finish. The students worked amazingly well and were a credit to themselves and the school.

The winner has now been chosen and I am very pleased to announce that Hilda Lyon (HL) House won. Their Christmas card design will now be printed and sent to the residents of Lindum House Care Home in Beverley.

Here is the winning entry:



Year 12 Drop Down Day

On 26 November Year 12 students took part in a Drop Down day with four invited speakers including Restart a Heart, Conifer House to talk about sexual health, the School Nurse team and Driver Safety. One Year 12 student said, 'It gave valuable knowledge for us to progress into university and beyond'.



Sports Report

Football

Year 7 5-a-side Football Tournament

We took our Year 7 team to the annual 5-a-side tournament held at Soccer Sensations in Hull on the 28 November. It was fantastic to see so many teams from the East Riding playing - 15 teams entered the girls' competition this year.



We managed to come 2nd in our league, beating Wolfeaton, Hessle High & Holderness Academy and losing narrowly to South Hunsley School. The team then came up against South Hunsley again in the semi-finals. It was a really close game and the girls were determined to come away with a win this time, they battled hard and never gave up. It was 2-2 by the end of full time and with less than half a minute to go the teams were tied, Hunsley scored in the last few seconds of the game. Well, done to the whole team - their attitude was positive throughout the tournament and they thoroughly enjoyed it!



Year 7 & 8 Friendly v Longcroft

The Year 7 and 8 teams went over to our local rivals Longcroft School to play a friendly match on Thursday 27 November. Both teams enjoyed the game and played with a great attitude. Year 8 came away with a 0-0 draw in what was a very close match with some excellent skills on display. A very strong Longcroft team came away with a win against our Year 7s.

Children in Need – Staff v Sixth form Volleyball



Thank you to all the staff and sixth formers for coming down to play volleyball for Children in Need, the match ended in a tie this year. It was great to see so many students coming down to support and donate money to a worthy cause.





Netball News

Year 7 Netball Team

Well done to our Year 7 & 8 teams who played Market Weighton School in a league game before half term. The students played amazingly well and both teams came away with a win.



Year 8 Team



Year 8 also won their league game against Cottingham High School; they have been fantastic this year, not losing a match yet and are really going from strength to strength.

Year 9 Team



The Year 9 team have had wins in the league against Cottingham, South Hunsley & Market Weighton so far! They are competing at the U14 Humber round of the National Netball schools' competition at the end of November and we look forward to seeing how far they can progress in this competition.

Year 10 Team

Year 10 have been regular attenders to club this year. They are a committed team who are passionate about their sport and it is great to see how much they enjoy playing. They have had wins against South Hunsley and Market Weighton so far in their league games.



Badminton

Our KS3 and KS4 teams competed in the local round of the schools' badminton. Both teams managed to beat all the others schools and were overall winners, they now progress through to the next round at Wolfreton School in December. Here they will play the other winners from the East Riding to have a chance to play in the Humber Schools' final.



Year 10 Sports Leaders

On Tuesday 18 November we hosted the Primary School Sports Hall Athletics competition for this area. It was lovely to have our local primary schools in again and have the opportunity to run this event for them. Fifteen of our Year 10

students did an amazing job as leaders and role models for the younger students. They got to experience organising and officiating a competition, whilst also encouraging and supporting primary school students to achieve their best.



J6th Sport

The newly re-formed Beverley J6th Year 12 and 13 netball team played Wolfreton School on November 26th and lost 16-9, but showed togetherness and good sportsmanship which made for an enjoyable match! Wolfreton made some strong interceptions so we can say their win was well deserved.

Alumni News from California

We were delighted to receive the following update from Lucy, a former J6th student who is currently on a study year abroad at the University of California, Berkeley. Lucy said, "It's Thanksgiving break so finally have some time to send some updates, as promised. I've been able to shoot some sports and I recently shot the 'big game' at Stanford University which was amazing- I got to go in the press box and everything. The US is crazy at the minute, as you can probably imagine, so I also got sent to some protests in both San Francisco and Berkeley as press which was somewhat scary but exciting. I also had my first opinion column published."

Here is a link to Lucy's column and some of her photos.

https://www.dailycal.org/a-quieter-kind-of-freedom/article_1b6b4a6f-22aa-4f34-9488-47e67626dcb4.html

https://www.dailycal.org/news/campus/department-of-education-launches-new-probe-into-uc-berkeley-tpusa-protests/article_3f1a20a3-1d44-40df-91ab-aea6549ee266.html

