



THE MERLE



NOTTINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

2ND JULY 2021 ISSUE 2



CCF ENJOY ACTIVITIES DAY ON THE LAWN

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

In many ways it has been a difficult two weeks since my last newsletter piece with a number of Covid cases for us to deal with. I hope that all those who were ill are making a good recovery. Thankfully, things have significantly eased now so hopefully we can now get to the end of term without too much further disruption. Please ensure that your children keep doing the twice weekly lateral flow tests as this plays an important part in keeping the whole school community safe.

There has been much in the press about the inconveniences caused by close contacts having to isolate and the trial that we took part in was designed to find a different way forward from September. We are waiting for the government to produce their plans for September but we will of course be in touch ahead of the new term once we know more. We are likely to leave this until at least mid-August so that we have the most up-to-date information to share.

I am very much looking forward to attending Sports Day today – not the usual event with the need to keep year groups apart but still it is fantastic that we have been able to get this event in and the weather is set fair. I also enjoyed watching some of the Year 11 game against the MCC at Valley Road yesterday. This is a prestigious fixture for us to have and again it has been lovely to see school sport returning so strongly this term.

I hope that many of our staff and students will take part in the project to create an archive of these pandemic times. We will draw on some of this material for our next yearbook as well with fewer school events to report on. We are living through a unique period of time so it will be great to capture how it has been for our pupils for future generations. Please encourage your son or daughter to write something reflecting on how this whole pandemic period has been for them.

We were pleased this week to hold our annual taster day and we had our biggest ever cohort attend this event. Thanks are due to Ms Matthews for her excellent organisation of this event especially given all that we had to do to make it safe for our visitors. It was fantastic to see how much they all enjoyed their day and hopefully that will help to ensure a strong cohort next year. Year 7 in September is completely full and the numbers overall are looking strong so thank you for all that you do to recommend us to your friends and colleagues.

Kevin Fear (Headmaster)

WHAT'S INSIDE

[click on the links below](#)

WHAT'S NEW?

page 2

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

page 3

YEAR GROUP UPDATES

page 4

FEATURE OF THE WEEK

page 5

SCHOOL NEWS & GALLERY

page 6 - 11

PARENT NOTICES

page 12

FEATURED VIDEO & QUOTE OF THE WEEK

page 13

WHAT'S NEW

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

CHARITY CONCERT

Our Year 12 Students have worked so hard to put together a charity concert to raise money for Emmanuel House, a charity that fights homelessness and poverty in Nottingham.

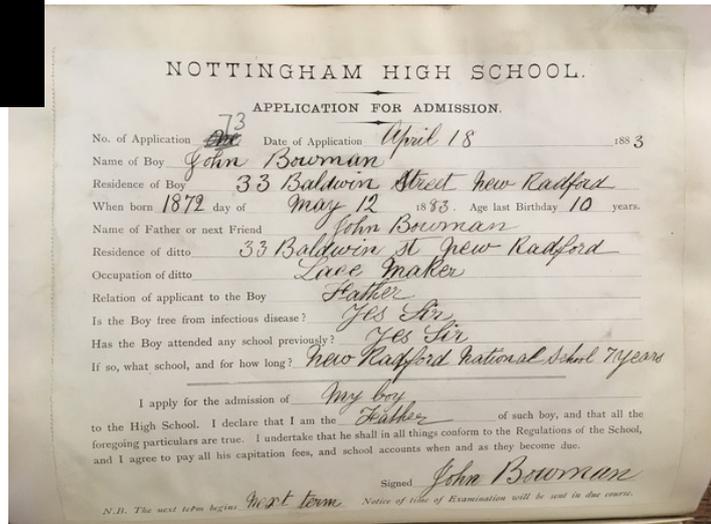
Click the image or follow the link [here](#) to see the full concert. If you would like to donate to this very worthy cause, please follow [this link](#). A special thanks goes to Tomos D (Y12) for capturing some great photos whilst recording.



COVID REFLECTIONS

Please contribute to our Archive project with a response to your experience of the last few months in prose, poetry, diary entry, observation, memory, text message, official letter, email, drawing, on a sheet of A4 or Word doc. for easy storage purposes, with your name and dates connected to the school as student, parent or member of staff, either past or present.

Send to Gunther.y@nottinghamhigh.co.uk or in the post to the Library. Read the full story below.



FOUNDER'S DAY 2021

There's still time to catch our Founder's Day video on Youtube! It is one of the most significant dates on the School's calendar, we are delighted to share this unique opportunity to celebrate with you all. The first of its kind, our virtual Founders' Day.

Although it's a shame that our celebrations have moved online for the second year in a row, we were honoured to be able to step back into St Mary's Church to bring you a virtual service.



Click the image to see the Founder's Day Video

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				2 TODAY SPORTS DAY
5 WEEK B Y7 TRIP TO ATTENBOROUGH MUSIC ABRSM EXAMS	6 MUSIC ABRSM EXAM	7 HEADMASTERS' PRIZES Y7 PARENTS' EVE Y7 ATHLETICS MUSIC ABRSM EXAM	8 Y7 CROSS ARTS PROJECT	9 Y7 CROSS ARTS PROJECT
12 WEEK A SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL	13 TERM ENDS Y12 GOLD DOFE FINAL EXPEDITION	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
SUPPORT STAFF ARE AVAILABLE TO CONTACT THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS				
26	27	28	29	30

Please see our School Website for the most up to date information via our online calendar [here](#)

Term Dates 2021/22

The term dates for 2021/2022 are now live on our website and you can view them [here](#).

Sports Fixtures and Results

You can access all the latest sports information, including team information, on the [sports website](#)

YEAR GROUP UPDATES



Head of Year 7 - Ms Hollie Matthews

Year 7 have had a busy week! They had a wonderful weekend starting with the Treasure Trail in Nottingham and the residential to Mount Cook (we'll be sharing the ins and outs of the weekend in the next newsletter so look out for it!) and some other fun events this week, such as the Biology and Geography trip to Attenborough Nature Reserve and Sports Day. The students have been excellent ambassadors for the school and have been enjoying the opportunity to get out of the classroom.



Head of Year 8 - Mr Oliver Pratten

Last Friday, the Year 8s took part in the National Enterprise Challenge. This is a business day that asks students to work together in groups to form a company and come up with a marketing plan for a new product. This year's challenge was based around reusing gas canisters to solve an environmental problem. The teams came up with some amazing ideas such as water recycling systems, beehives and temporary shelters. The winning team 'Reef Relief' put together a proposal to use the gas canisters to repair coral reefs, and then you manage the reefs as a tourist resource to generate income for future expansion. The team's (please see the photo) presentation was excellent and covered a marketing plan with a clear pricing strategy, an advert, a launch event and a detailed description of their idea. Well done to the winning team who will now go on to the national finals on 9th July.



Head of Year 9 - Simon Barr Smith

Our PSHE focus this week has been to look at the issues concerning "sexting" and the sharing of inappropriate images online. This lesson forms part of the School's education on the sensible use of social media and we explored the legal issues surrounding the sharing of images as well as looking at the moral decisions that an individual should consider if placed in such a situation. This led to some very informed and sensible debate between the students. It has been a challenging year in terms of normal school activities but it is pleasing to see that a large majority in the year will shortly be embarking on their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition. The skills that they will learn from this in terms of teamwork and problem solving will serve them well in the future and we wish them well in their endeavours over the weekend.



Head of Year 10 - Mr Paul Allison

Year 10 have had a busy fortnight both in the classroom and with Co-Curricular activities. They enjoyed a busy activities day on Friday 25th June, taking part in CCF, Adventure training, Journalism, Drama and DT. This was for many, a new experience, with so much activities last year being cancelled. The Ambassador Scheme has continued with the Debating Club and the Politics, Philosophy, Economics Club taking place on Wednesday Lunch time. Thank you to Anjali and Gauri for their superb effort this year as Year 10 Ambassadors. On the sports field, year 10 have enjoyed House Cricket and House Rounders and many students have been preparing for the annual sports day with after school training sessions and games afternoons. The year 10 Boys Athletics Team won the English Schools Cup, County round and the Year 10 Girls team finished third.

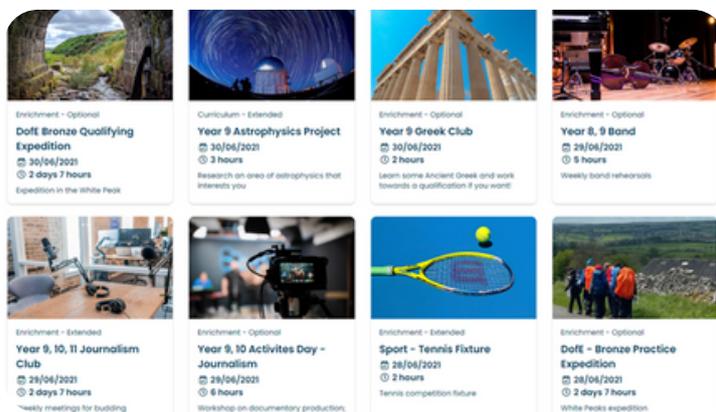
Assistant Head Individuals Y11-13 - Mr David Gillett

Year 11 made an excellent start to their School career and impressed everyone with how quickly they bonded socially in the Sixth Form Centre and made themselves at home! The induction lessons went brilliantly and all appreciated the chance to get to used to smaller class sizes and new relationships with teachers. The 11-13 Team found themselves at Spring Lakes again for a day of knee-boarding, paddle-boarding and fun in the water. The fortnight finished off with a team challenge to create an outfit from recycled materials. Much fun was had by all with some amazing results.

Year 12 are making great progress with UCAS and were inspired further by Dr Burton's assembly on Intellectual Endeavour. He focused on learning beyond the classroom and making links between academic disciplines. The EPQ marketplace similarly provided some brilliant examples of Intellectual Endeavour and showcased some brilliant presentation skills. We hope that many will be able to use all they have learnt in their forthcoming university applications.

TMG Training returned to the High School on Friday 25th in order to run their excellent Media Day for a group of Year 12 students as part of this term's Activities Day. Keith Daniell, a former ITV news journalist and owner of TMG Training, specialises in providing high quality coaching on how to present yourself authentically. Students participated in a workshop run by Keith and supported by a camera crew, in which they were given the challenge of telling 'their story' to camera. Keith provided one-to-one feedback and a range of tips to help them make a positive impression. In the afternoon they were given a group task of creating a live television report. While the day was an enjoyable one, it also undoubtedly had its benefits looking forward to UCAS and other applications, providing students with some great material and ideas on how to stand out and make impression. They all recognised that coming across well on camera is a real art and now that more interviews than ever are being conducted as video calls, it's an art worth mastering!

SKILLS SHOWCASE



click the image above to watch the Founders' Day video)

By Rebecca Auterson (Head of Careers)

In the past few weeks, our time-log of skills development across school has more than doubled due to the wonderful opportunities for students to take part in fieldwork projects, activity and enterprise days, sports fixtures, volunteering, plays, concerts, DofE expeditions and other outdoor activities. While not purporting to be a complete overview of everything the students have done this year, the Skills Builder element to their Morrisby accounts does encourage them to reflect on the 'unmeasurable' skills gained by stepping outside one's comfort zone and trying something new. Listening, Speaking, Teamwork, Leadership, Aiming High, Staying Positive, Problem-solving and Creativity are all credited as relevant for the activities, with a total of over 22,000 hours of skills for years 8-12 to view online and reflect on.

I believe there are two key reasons to highlight these skills to students and encourage them to consider ways they can develop them further. Firstly, with almost 1/4 of A-level students passing with AAA or above, and over 1/3 of undergraduates gaining a 1st class degree each year and a further 1/3 awarded a 2:1, good academic qualifications will put you in the running for a particular job, training programme or course, but do not deliver the detail that employers or admissions tutors need in order to make their selections. Skills developed through other activities can be a good way of differentiating yourself.

Secondly and perhaps of greater importance, developing a broad skill-set can help young people make the most of changes and challenges in the future. Successfully settling into a new life at university, or starting work in a new firm will be much more manageable if you have a range of skills rather than just academic qualifications.

With this in mind, I encourage everyone to log back into their Morrisby accounts and take a look at the activities we've logged for you already. You can add more to this list – I know many of you will have enjoyed a variety of activities outside of school this year. Are there areas you'd like to spend more time working on? Start thinking about the new things you can look forward to next year. Set some new goals and challenge yourself to become a well-rounded student in our School community. Congratulations on everything you have participated in this year and we look forward to supporting you in next year's endeavours.

*Figures taken from [here](#).



SCHOOL NEWS

Robotics in D&T

Year 8 have been exploring the concept of automation using the MOVE:MOTOR buggy and a programmable Micro:Bit to make home delivery robots. We have also debated the consequences of advanced robotics on society and how they are used in a range of contexts including the clear up of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster

The Year 10's had an exciting and challenging day exploring robotics concepts with Lego Spike Prime; designing, making and testing robots to solve problems like how to create linear motion without wheels - there were some very funny flapping and waddling designs!

And the Young Engineers had a brilliant day of VEX IQ robots, designing and making sorting machines and Mars rovers. This one was a prototype of "Ingenuity" the helicopter that rode to Mars attached to the belly of the Perseverance rover and which has just performed the first powered flight on Mars. The VEX trainer had this feedback: "Fantastic school, fantastic staff, fantastic department, and most importantly fantastic students!"

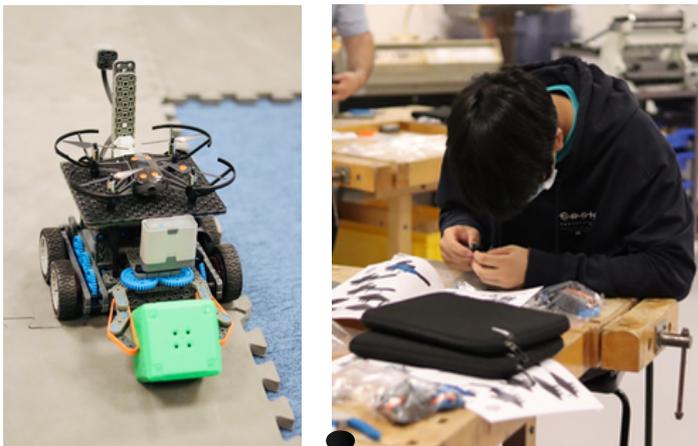


EXPLORING AUTOMATION USING MOVE:MOTOR BUGGY AND PROGRAMMABLE MICRO:BIT

Music

Year 8 students enjoyed a djembe workshop as part of Activities Day last Friday. The students learnt specific drumming techniques and complex rhythms as part of a group performance. They also learnt the choreography alongside the music, and it was brilliant to see so many of the students up on their feet performing the dance in-between playing the drums. It was great to let off steam after a hard week of exams!

YOUNG ENGINEERS, VEX IQ ROBOTS



DJEMBE AFRICAN DRUMMING WORKSHOP

Y8 CREATIVE DAY



Music Success

Congratulations to Tom H in Year 10 on gaining a distinction for his Grade 8 Trinity College Performance Exam on the trombone. Tom achieved 90 marks out of 100; a fantastic achievement.

Yearbooks 2020

We still have a number of hard copies of the Yearbooks from last year. If your child would like a hard copy, they will be available to collect from the Senior School Reception.

SCHOOL NEWS

Athletics Results

Year 12 athletes competed for the annual Decathlon and Heptathlon trophies in games. The boys trophy has been presented for over 40 years and the girls trophy was first contested in 2018. Congratulations to the top three.

Heptathlon
 1st – Amelia
 2nd – Lily
 3rd – Alice

Decathlon
 1st – Enzo
 2nd – Josiah
 3rd - Harrison



NAVY ACTIVITIES DAY

Navy Activities Day

Year 9 and Year 10 Navy cadets enjoyed a full day at Colwick Park and Colwick Marina for their activities day. They took part in Afloat Training on the Cheverton Champ boats (pictured) skippered by Lt Adshead and Lt Cdr Allison. Learning aspects of the Rules of the Road, Rope work and Craft Maneuvers. They also took part in Orienteering and map and compass.

Y8 Burbage Brook

Last week The Geography department took year 8 out to Burbage Brook located near Sheffield and Hathersage. This was year 8's first piece of fieldwork at the High School due to lockdown last year. Year 8 students used the trip to develop their data collection techniques. They took measurements of river speed, valley side gradient, depth and width across two sites to see if there would be any changes. On all three days, we were very lucky with the weather and as a Geography department it was great to see students back in the field after such a long break.



BURBAGE BROOK

Art Exhibition

Finally something to look forward to! Art department staff have been busily putting our annual Art exhibition. We made the difficult decision to move the date for our exhibition. The exhibition will now take place in September. GCSE and A Level coursework now covers all the walls in the department and we can't wait to welcome friends and family to view the exhibition. There will also be a chance to see our Year 7 mural and curriculum work from Year 7, 8 and 9.

Young Enterprise

Congratulations go to Team Matrix who picked up 2 awards at the Young Enterprise East Midlands final in May. Pictured are a few team members with their awards for Creativity and Technology and Innovation.

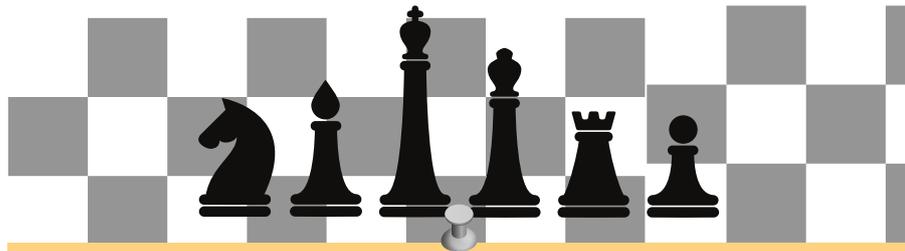


TEAM MATRIX

SCHOOL NEWS

Young Composer of the Year

Congratulations to Dan W in Year 12 for winning the KS5 category for the Young Composer of the Year competition. And also to Chris M for the runner-up prize in the KS3 category, and to Mya P for winning the KS3 category, as well as being the overall winner across all key stages. The entries were judged by music department staff along with David Ibbett (ON), who is a pioneering composer and currently works at Fermilab, the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, as a guest composer. David enjoyed listening to all the compositions submitted; a huge congratulations to all students who took part.



Chess News

Result of the ECF online Inter-School Team Battle Chess tournament 25th June:

The High school had 11 members of the chess club taking part in the inter-school chess team battle tournament on Friday. It was an exceptionally good performance by the team finishing second out of 27 schools. The final scores were High School finishing second on 130 points only 15 behind the eventual winners. The individual scores were very impressive with Armaan G scoring 41 points, Susie W scoring 30 points Rishav A 21 points Alex E 19 points and Alexandra A 19 points. Other good scores were Ben Mon 18 and Zak H on eight.

We will continue to take part in these fortnightly online tournaments as they have certainly proved popular. They restart on Friday 10th September at 6.00pm.



LIGETI QUARTET



Ligeti Quartet

The inspiring Ligeti Quartet visited the school for the final time this year on Wednesday 30th June. They spent the morning coaching the Year 12 Jazz Band and the Year 12 Baroque Ensemble. The quartet shared a great deal of knowledge regarding ensemble playing and the students learnt a great deal from the experience. Both ensembles are looking forward to performing live in the Music Festival on the 12th of July. Tickets for the event can be booked through Trybooking; please contact musicadministrator@nottinghamhigh.co.uk for further details.

CCF

Congratulations to Mr Joe Hincks, Teacher of Biology and Ms Abi Johnson, Teacher of Music on completing and passing their Basic Training for the CCF Army section. Whilst welcoming newly commissioned officers; we bid a sad but very fond farewell to Mr Matt Neale, Teacher of English, who has left the CCF. He is owed an enormous debt of gratitude for his contribution to the Army Section which has been invaluable, particularly during the past year whilst we all adapted to the Covid situation. He will be greatly missed but we wish him the very best in his future pursuits. We also want to give thanks to many of our Year 12 Cadets from the Tri-Service who have contributed enormously to the planning of lessons for the Junior Cadets. They have all been a tremendous help to their OC Sections.

SCHOOL NEWS

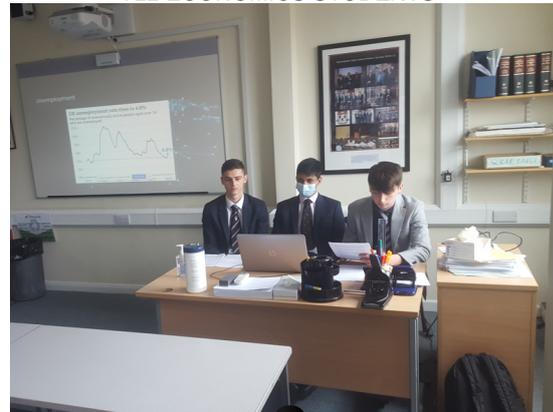
Economics News

Year 12 economists have benefited from some fantastic online opportunities over recent weeks, including the opportunity to attend question and answer sessions with three Nobel prize winning economists. One session was led by current prize holder Paul Milgrom, an expert in game theory and specifically auction design. Many of our students who wish to read Economics at university take a particular interest in the application of game theory – a branch of maths that analyses strategic interactions – to our subject, as it is both fascinating and extends understanding significantly beyond the Year 12 specification. If you'd like to see an example of a Game in action, watch an old episode of the television show Goldenballs! The dominant strategy is for each player to try to steal the prize pot from the other, with the result that often both players go home penniless. This means that the action that is individually dominant produces the worst collective outcome. There are many parallels in Economics, not least in understanding why individuals (and individual governments) make decisions that collectively could lead to climate disaster.

In the week ahead, we are also encouraging students to take part in sessions that Lancaster University are providing online, specifically designed for those who wish to read Economics at university: take a look [here](#).

A team of Year 12 students, Sophie, Joseph, Adnan and Harrison have also recently taken part in a speaking competition against other schools. This was an exercise in genuinely independent study, with no input from teachers. The team produced an impressive analysis of the economic effects of government policy responses to Covid-19, for example in arguing cogently that the benefits of the furlough scheme outweigh its costs.

Y12 ECONOMICS STUDENTS



DEAR Day

This week students in all year groups have participated in our termly Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) day. This initiative means that students and teachers read for the first ten minutes of each lesson across the whole day, totalling 50mins of reading time in total. Studies continue to show the importance of regular reading for academic attainment and increasingly, in helping young people to manage their own mental health, and so we continue to promote and showcase reading at the High School.

Year 9 students this week reflected on DEAR day and shared their current reads:

"DEAR day is great because you can have the time to read and to share recommendations for good books with friends. Today I am reading Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie." Mariam M, Y9

"It is such a good way to start a lesson. You get into a very positive mindset for learning. I am reading American Dirt by Jeannie Cummings, and it is really good." Isha Y, Y9.

"DEAR is such a nice idea, it creates such a calm atmosphere. Reading is such a calming activity. I am reading a book I got for Christmas which is called Second Foundation, by Isaac Asimov." William M, Y9.

"It is good to have the opportunity to get into a book and have dedicated time set aside to do this. I'm reading The Mixer by Michael Cox today." Charles P, Y9.

"I am reading The Plague by Albert Camus for DEAR day. It's quite a nice thing to have for the end of term because it is something a bit different to the usual." William H, Y9.



DEAR DAY

SCHOOL NEWS

COVID Reflections Wanted

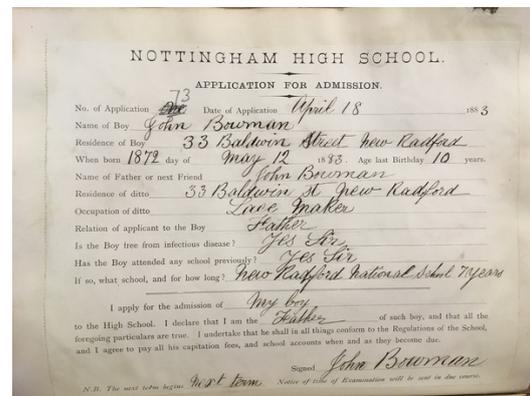
But, Lord! what a sad time it is to see no boats upon the River; and grass grows all up and down White Hall court, and nobody but poor wretches in the streets! And, which is worst of all, the Duke showed us the number of the plague this week, brought in the last night from the Lord Mayor; that it is increased about 600 more than the last, which is quite contrary to all our hopes and expectations, from the coldness of the late season. For the whole general number is 8,297, and of them the plague 7,165; which is more in the whole by above 50, than the biggest Bill yet; which is very grievous to us all.

Samuel Pepys 1665

Apart from the admissions forms from 1883 where parents are asked whether their sons are free from infection, and AW Thomas's index note of Cholera, rumour of, in 1870, we see little evidence of contagious disease in the history of the school, despite plenty of evidence of plague, typhus, typhoid, small pox, influenza and TB in Nottingham. Indeed, a fever hospital was built in the town in 1828 and an Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium opened in Bagthorpe in 1892. One might assume that in the old days, news of illness and contagion was something that could break the reputation of a school, or that personal thoughts and feelings were best left un-expressed.

To counter this and acknowledge the seismic shift in how we have lived our lives and how the school has functioned over the last 15 months, I would like to create a small collection of personal reflections from the wide school community to place in the School Archives to record this awful period of the Covid-19 pandemic for future generations of researchers, perhaps also enabling us to celebrate our own strength and resilience in the face of the extraordinary unknown. Please contribute to our Archive project with a response to your experience of the last few months in prose, poetry, diary entry, observation, memory, text message, official letter, email, drawing, on a sheet of A4 or Word doc. for easy storage purposes, with your name and dates connected to the school as student, parent or member of staff, either past or present.

Send to Gunther.y@nottinghamhigh.co.uk or in the post to the Library.



Activities Day

For activities day on 25 June, the Year 9 Community Action group demonstrated considerable initiative, teamwork and maturity in planning and leading a mini-sports day at Valley Road for Key Stage 2 students visiting from Edna G Olds Academy. Some of our students took responsibility for overseeing a specific activity -- ranging from a penalty shootout to an obstacle course -- while others acted as group leaders mentoring and guiding the primary pupils around each station. Meanwhile, the Year 10s collaborated with the Marketing and Development departments to propose new ideas for products and innovative ways to redesign High School webpages to facilitate access to products and promotional material.

Food Bank Appeal

We have also launched our summer Bestwood and Bulwell Food Bank appeal; the window for donations has been extended until Monday 5 July. As always, we would be grateful for any donations made.



CLICK THE VIDEO ABOVE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE FOOD BANK APPEAL

SCHOOL NEWS GALLERY



Year 7 Geography trip to Attenborough



Community Action Volunteers



Year 7 Residential



Year 7 Residential - High Ropes



Young Engineers



Year 7 Mural



Year 12 Charity Concert - click the image to see



Activities Day Treasure Trail



Year 8 Geography Trip



Year 10 Rounders Fixture



Year 12 Media Group Day



Year 8 National Enterprise Challenge

PARENT NOTICES

Parking Notice

A reminder to all parents to please be mindful when parking around School. The Sainsbury's car park can become very congested during pick up and drop off times - local residents have expressed concern over the entrance becoming blocked and parents unnecessarily using the disabled bays when collecting children from School. We know parking can be difficult around the area but we politely ask that you consider our local residents.



Raise donations for Nottingham High School whenever you shop online

Turn your everyday online shopping into FREE donations

Over £32m raised for good causes through [easyfundraising](#)

Easy Fundraising - Help us raise money

EasyFundraising is a brilliant platform which allows you to do your online shopping and raise money for your favourite cause at the same time. We currently have 74 registered users who have raised over £1803.70 for the Nottingham High School Bursary Fund without it costing them a penny. The retailer makes the donation as a 'thank you' to you! [Please sign up today!](#)

Sponsor a Stone

Since its launch in 2017, our [Sponsor a Stone](#) campaign has raised almost £35,000 for the School's Bursary Fund plus another £8,000 in Gift Aid! Waverley Walkway is lined with personalised stones - a permanent feature of the School, one which will be enjoyed by our community for many years to come. This is a great opportunity to celebrate links with Nottingham High Society as well as supporting our work to create opportunities for children who, without financial assistance, would be denied their opportunity to attend the School.



[To order your stone please visit our website.](#)

Prayer Meetings

The prayer support group meets regularly, and all are welcome.

Please contact senior school parent Helen Bromley (helen.bromley@sky.com or 07816 164550) for details or to join our mailing list.

Social Media

Don't forget that you can follow us on social media to keep up-to-date with what's happening at the school. Please do feel free to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Flickr](#). A full list of all Nottingham High School departmental social media accounts is available on our website.

Attendance in School

If you know in advance that your child is going to be absent from School, please apply for an Exeat by emailing exeat@nottinghamhigh.co.uk. If your child is ill or unexpectedly absent, please telephone the School Reception on 0115 978 6056 before 8.40am on every day they will not be attending and we will update our registers.

iParent and iStudent

iParent and iStudent are extensions from iSams and will give you access to important information anytime, anyplace, anywhere. Download the iParent app from your mobile phone app store for free!

FEATURED VIDEO



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“

**Never under-estimate
your own potential,
recognise your
weaknesses, be true to
yourself and respect
everyone**

”

JIM WILD (ON 1969 - 1979)