



THE MERLE

NOTTINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



13TH JULY 2021 ISSUE 3



CLICK THE IMAGE ABOVE TO WATCH OUR FINAL ASSEMBLY

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

We come to the end of what has been an extraordinary year in so many respects. There have been many challenges along the way but the School ends the year in a very good position with record numbers for September and having come through this Covid era as a strong community. The last few weeks have been challenging and I very much appreciate just how frustrating it is when we have had to isolate children or cancel events but I thank you for all your support through this school year.

It has been an honour and privilege to lead the staff team and I want to thank each and every member of our staff for the part they have played this year. We have had to be both resilient and adaptable but at all times have strived to deliver the best possible education. Our support staff have also been remarkable and we all owe a huge debt to our team of cleaners, caretakers and operations staff who have done so much to keep us all safe. Thanks too to my SMT colleagues who have been at the heart of our track and trace responsibilities – all this work comes on top of their normal duties and often at weekends and their efforts too have been immense. Difficult and unpopular decisions have had to be taken along the way but we take each decision with integrity, always according to the regulations and yet are sympathetic to the disruption that this has inevitably caused.

As the Summer Term ends we are required to continue with close contact tracing for six days. Close contact tracing is required for students who have been in School in the two days before the onset of symptoms or a positive test is taken. Do let Miss Gritti know (gritti.l@nottinghamhigh.co.uk), therefore, up to Monday 19th July, if your child has symptoms or takes a test that returns a positive result for COVID. Following that date any cases will need to be reported to the national track and trace system as outlined in the government guidance.

The guidance for our return to School in September has been published, albeit with some areas still to be clarified. We are currently planning two lateral flow tests for all students in Years 7 – 13 in School before term begins, one on Friday 27th August, with the second on Tuesday 31st August. There will be some other opportunities to complete this testing should families be unavailable on these dates but we will provide a fuller update in mid-August. In September, student bubbles will no longer be required and Tutor Sets will be able to operate as planned for Y7-10 and Y11-13. Self-isolation requirements should be reduced and therefore, hopefully, the impact of COVID for individuals in School will be mitigated enormously.

Another date for your diaries is Saturday 25th September which is our School Open Day – we will need most students to be available that day to assist with tours or in departments so we would be grateful if you could keep this date free of any other engagements.

I hope that all in the School community have a great summer break and we will be back in touch in mid-August with full details ahead of September. I am looking forward to some time with my partner Caroline and the chance to get away for a few days ahead of the A Level and GCSE results. This has been a long and tiring year but I am so proud of how our school community has pulled together and also of our staff and students who have been magnificent at every stage despite all the challenges. Thank you for your support as parents, for all the many kind messages that have been sent throughout the pandemic and for continuing to support Nottingham High School.

Kevin Fear (Headmaster)

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	13 TODAY LAST DAY OF TERM	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
School Closed				
SUPPORT STAFF ARE AVAILABLE TO CONTACT THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS				
26	27	28	29	30
2	3	4	5	6
First Day Back - 2nd September				
9	10 A LEVEL RESULTS DAY	11	12 GCSE RESULTS DAY	13

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 an excellent half-term and thoroughly enjoyed their Cross Arts days on Thursday and Friday last week. They've finished their final lessons in First Aid this week and are all very much looking forward to the start of the summer holidays and in need of a good sleep! Mrs Andrews and I have very much enjoyed supporting them this year. They've been a wonderful year group who have shown so much positivity and enthusiasm during a very tricky year. We had a final assembly on Thursday to celebrate all they have achieved this year, including raising over £500 for the school charity as a year group (not including non-uniform days). All the best for Year 8 and have an excellent summer!



Head of Year 8 - Mr Oliver Pratten

The Year 8s have been looking forward to the end of term, and it has been great to have them all back in school for the last few days. We had our end of term assembly at the end of last week and handed out prizes to the students who have been awarded the highest number of distinctions this year. In reverse order, they are: Elyssa B with 120 distinctions, Anna R with 122 distinctions and Priya M with 128 distinctions. These are fantastic achievements, and it was also great to see so many of the Year 8s getting their High School Award and Prizes this year. Mrs Gillett and I have enjoyed looking after this Year group enormously, and we wish them every success in Year 9 and beyond.



Head of Year 9 - Simon Barr Smith

The end of a challenging year has come and it was nice to be able to reflect on all the successes achieved by the year group in our final assembly. We considered the statement "walking through life with a stone in my shoe" and how we can achieve so much by making a key decision to stop and change something that is aggravating or causing annoyance. The key message has been to try and make those changes to achieve our targets that deep down we possess and desire.

Focus now turns to the start of Year 10 and GCSE courses. We looked at how everyone can call on their experiences this year to support their learning and progress over the next two years. Have a well earned rest and best of luck next year.



Head of Year 10 - Mr Paul Allison

Year 10 have completed their five weeks of PSHE, students have covered a variety of topics including, Mental Health, Ill Health, Evaluating Social & Emotional Risks of Drug Abuse, Managing Grief and Bereavement, Understanding Causes and Effects of Debt, Balancing Time Online.

Prior to their PSHE programme this term, year 10 have listened to assemblies on topics including, Diversity, Online Safety and Peer on Peer Abuse. This term has also seen year 10 students complete DofE expeditions, music concerts and sports fixtures



Assistant Head, Individuals Y11-13 - Mr David Gillett

We've heard of some excellent experiences on online open days from Year 12 and hope that the opportunity to visit universities in person comes in due course. Year 12 Sports Day on Wednesday afternoon was a fantastic occasion with some excellent performances in the field and on the track. Students showed great commitment to their Houses and many competed in three or more events, often tempted by the prospect of medals or of maintaining an unbeaten run on Sports Days. The Year 12 students also heard from one of our most popular Sixth Form speakers on Monday. Shaun Attwood, now a popular YouTube star, gave an excellent talk outlining the dangers of drugs and describing the justice system from an insiders perspective. The students asked some searching questions and commented on how well the message on illegal substances had been delivered.

Y7 ACTIVITIES DAY AND RESIDENTIAL

Mount Cook Residential, Friday 25th - Saturday 26th June



By Mrs Andrews (Assistant Head of Year 7)

At last it was the Week of Year 7's long awaited Transition Trip to Mount Cook in Wirksworth Derbyshire. This was unable to take place earlier in the Year, and with many of Year 7 having missed their Year 6 residentials, there was much anticipation, excitement, and a little nervousness at the prospect of staying away from home with the rest of the Year Group. In these unusual times, and being the first residential of 2021 for the Senior School, the staff were feeling some trepidation also!

We would be put into smaller group bubbles for the weekend, and students were introduced to others and to group leaders whilst taking part in a treasure trail; a fun walk around the Nottingham Castle, Broadmarsh, and Canal areas of Nottingham, solving clues as we went. With approximately 5 miles of walking we were glad it only rained for a small part of the way! A highlight of the route was getting to meet Robin Hood, although Mrs Stafford may disagree as she was put in the stocks by the Nottingham Legend, ably assisted by his partner in crime, Little John.

Once we had eaten lunch at school, we were put into bubbles and on our way to Wirksworth. . Some had a little sleep on the coach, already having been tired by the morning walk! Refreshed by lunch and some downtime on the bus, we all got straight on with various activities as soon as we arrived at Mount Cook

One of our teachers remarked that, in her many years of teaching, she had never seen such a fantastic range of activities on offer; high ropes, team building, archery tag, rock climbing and abseiling were enjoyed by all. Those who were feeling unsure about tackling some of the challenges were put at ease by the brilliant instructors, and encouraged to have a go by their peers. Many were surprised by how much they achieved and how much they enjoyed it!

We finished activities at 8pm on Friday evening. Everyone was ready for dinner, and some even had energy for ball games while they were waiting, despite having walked over 20,000 steps that day! After dinner there was time for a quiz, and more sports for those still not tired before bedtime at 10pm.

Despite a rather late night, everyone was raring to go again in the morning, and looking forward to a hearty breakfast. Through the day everyone got to try all of the activities on offer, and to encourage their friends and teachers to have a go too. Mr Morgan and Mrs Stafford were most keen to try everything, and both took the Leap of Faith on the high ropes, cheered on enthusiastically by their groups.

5pm came around all too quickly, and we were back on the buses, returning to Nottingham. Everyone was a little more subdued than on the way out, and a few more took advantage of a little "power nap" en-route, but had we managed to wear them out? Feedback on Monday back in school seems to indicate so, with one student reporting that he'd even had to get an "early night" on Saturday to recover! All-in-all a great trip, with brilliant feedback from everyone who was lucky enough to be there. And the best news is that Ms Matthews and I get to go again in September with the new Year 7s!

SCHOOL NEWS

Road to Wimbledon

Last weekend, Henna Q (Y8) played the County round of the Road to Wimbledon and won all her matches!!

She is now through to the National U14 girls final at Wimbledon, matches are to be played from August 8th. The tournament had over 2,000 girls entered nationally and Henna is now in the last remaining 32. This is the biggest tennis tournament Henna has entered and has done exceptionally well.

A huge congratulations to Henna on this fantastic achievement, we wish her the best of luck with her next match.



ROAD TO WIMBLEDON

Cricket Success

Last week Manraaj B, Noah B, Marcus S, Luca V, Rohan B, Milo W, Harry E, Sam M & Thomas B became County U15s T20 Champions at cricket through their team at Plumtree Cricket Club. The team will go on to represent Nottinghamshire in a regional final of the cup competition. It's a real reflection on school cricket that local clubs perform so well – huge thanks to Mr Baker and the staff who support co-curricular cricket in particular and sport in general here at Nottingham High School.

10x Challenge

Congratulations to Rohan, Leon and Callum for winning the 10x for Good category in the national 10x Challenge competition (age 15+ section). In just 4 weeks they managed to turn £10 into £76 for the Football Foundation, engaging their whole year group in a football tournament, bringing teams together and enabling students who'd not played football for many years to get stuck in for a charitable cause.



10 X CHALLENGE

Fair' Business Challenge

After a tough round of judging, James Mellors was delighted to announce the winners and runners up for the Year 10 'Fun of the Fair' business challenge. Students were really inspired by his initial talk, where he discussed some of the incredible projects the Mellors Group is involved with and spoke about the challenges of growing a successful business. Students worked in groups to come up with their own entertainment idea and complete as many challenges as possible, including creating a logo, business plan, social media campaign, risk assessment and site map. The winning team were Glider: Jane A, Amy G, Ria J, CK M, Hannah P and Millie W.

Runners up were SkyZero: Callum D, Josh L, Rohan S, Jack S and Andrew W-S



ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR WINNERS

SCHOOL NEWS

Year 7 Attenborough Trip

Year 7 enjoyed their annual field trip to our local Attenborough Nature Reserve last week, where they spent a sunny day exploring and investigating specific habitats in the reserve. The groups rotated around 3 in depth activities. The first in an area of woodland, where they were testing the impact of trampling on woodland ecosystems by using quadrat surveys to identify species and other aspects of the fragile ecosystem. The second was collecting data to test the impact of pollution on one of the ponds in the reserve, where they had a great time finding and identifying aquatic wildlife. We saw plenty of beautiful dragon flies and tiny newts too! The third activity was a walk that focused on understanding the sustainable catchment-based approach to flooding on the River Trent.

A great time was had by all; the highlight of the visit may possibly have been the gaggle of geese that persisted on following our lesser spotted Year 7 students around at lunchtime!



YEAR 7 ATTENBOROUGH TRIP

National Athletics Champion

Amelia competed in the English Schools National Championships Senior Girls 400m Hurdles in Manchester on Friday 9th July. She finished in a fantastic 5th place, a huge congratulations to Amelia.



ATHLETICS CHAMPION



AWARD SHORTLIST: SOCIAL MOBILITY

Independent School of the Year Awards Shortlisted

We are pleased to announce that Nottingham High School has been shortlisted for an award in the Independent Schools of the Year 2021 social mobility category.

Since state funding was withdrawn in 1997, the School has relied on its own modest endowment fund, a handful of generous Old Nottinghamians and a few local Trusts and Foundations to offer bursary places to children who, without our help, would be denied their opportunity of a Nottingham High School education. We are proud that through our combined efforts, we currently providing financial assistance to 105 students in the School today. Each year our bursary places are heavily over-subscribed. In 2021, of 42 academically able children passed the 21 were offered a place and 21 were turned away, due to lack of funds.

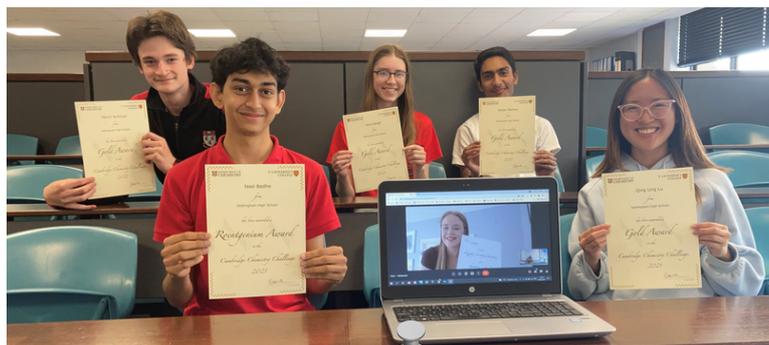
We are determined to change this and are delighted that our work has been recognised in this way.

If you would like to find out more about our bursary programme please contact Sam Ellis Fundraising Manager ellis.s@nottinghamhigh.co.uk

SCHOOL NEWS

Maples' House

After 8 years as Head of Maples', I am handing over the reins to Mr Wantling and as I move onto a different role in School, I look back on the time I have led Maples' with great fondness. I have had a lot of fun as Head of House, despite some challenges along the way. I have been extremely lucky to be so well supported by my team of excellent tutors and many parents of students in Maples'. Thank you for this. House Captains over the years have worked enthusiastically with me to encourage the participation and fierce loyalty which have characterised the Green Team. Countless students in Maples' House over the last 8 years have willingly committed time and effort to raise the House profile and give it its strong identity and for that I am really grateful. I am proud of our fundraising; we have collectively raised in the order of £20,000 over the 8 years for our charity Berega Hospital in Tanzania; a phenomenal effort! Thank you Maples' House. I wish you all and Mr Wantling the best of luck and look forward to supporting the Green Team's ongoing endeavours as they go for a 7th consecutive Wheeler Cup victory next year! - Mrs Lemon



Y12 CHEMISTS

Chemistry Success

Congratulations to all of our Y12 A Level Chemists who took the C3L6 Cambridge Chemistry Challenge in June.

The C3L6 Cambridge Chemistry Challenge aims to stretch and challenge students interested in chemistry, and provides an excellent experience for anyone considering taking their studies further. It is designed to be accessible to Year 12 students but takes them significantly beyond the syllabus and encourages them to think about science in the way they would at university. The paper is a genuine stretch and challenge exercise, aimed at the brightest Lower Sixth Chemists in the UK.

This year our results are a huge credit to the students within the Chemistry Department in that they were able to attain such impressive results despite the challenges of remote learning over part of the year, with 1 Roentgenium, 5 Gold, 4 Silver and 8 Copper certificates achieved. Neel B's achievement of a Roentgenium is absolutely exceptional – he attained a mark in the top 20 students nationally and, if national COVID restrictions allow, will be invited to St Catherine's College Cambridge for a residential opportunity later this year.

Neel is pictured above, along with Gold Award winners Grace F (via video link!), Anna S, Henry B, Qing L and Rohan S.

Music Achievement

A huge congratulations goes to Benjamin S (Y12) for his recent ARSM Performance Diploma singing exam. The exam demonstrates performance skills after Grade 8 and consisted of a 30 minute programme in which Benjamin sang eight pieces of music. Musical communication skills, interpretation and technical delivery were assessed. Benjamin achieved a distinction with 46 marks out of 50. This is a fantastic achievement, well done Ben!



MAPLES' HOUSE AT SPORTS DAY

SCHOOL NEWS

Year 7 Cross Arts Project

On 8th and 9th July all Year 7 students took part in the Cross - Arts Project. Students participated in a series of workshops across the 3 disciplines of Music, Art, and Drama, focusing on developing a range of skills. The year group was divided in two, with half the year group preparing a performance of a folk tale from India, called 'The Little Mice and the Big Elephant'. The Gamelan (a set of percussion instruments from Indonesia) was used for the music. The other half of the year performed an African folk tale based around 'Anansi the Spider' and used djembe to create the music. Alongside a backdrop of stunning artwork, which the students had produced over the two days, we were treated to final performances of each script. The students were fantastic throughout the whole process and had so many creative ideas; a huge congratulations to all of them.



SCHOOL NEWS GALLERY



Senior School Summer Music Festival



Scouts Fun on Front Lawns



Mr William's 34th and Final Sports Day



Scouts Trip to Hoveringham



Y10 and Y11 Work Hard in Fitness Suite



England Themes in Food and Nutrition



Year 7 Geography Trip to Attenborough



Sports Day Celebration - click on the image to see the full album



Year 7 Geography Trip to Attenborough



High Jump Victories at Sports Day



Sports Day



Biology Club

PARENT NOTICES

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. Our next meetings will be on Wednesday 15 September and Tuesday 16 November.

Please contact Helen Bromley (Helen.bromley@sky.com or 07816164550) 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 xeat@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

**Do not ask your children
to strive for extraordinary lives.
Such striving may seem admirable,
but it is the way of foolishness.
Help them instead to find the wonder
and the marvel of an ordinary life.
Show them the joy of tasting
tomatoes, apples and pears.
Show them how to cry
when pets and people die.
Show them the infinite pleasure
in the touch of a hand.
And make the ordinary come alive for them.
The extraordinary will take care of itself.**

WILLIAM MARTIN