



# THE MERLE

NOTTINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



15TH OCTOBER 2021 ISSUE 6



SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING - 13TH OCTOBER

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

We come to the end of a busy but very successful half-term. Thankfully we have not been too disrupted by Covid but please do ensure that your child tests themselves the night before returning to School so that we can be sure that all are free of Covid on the return to School, this will set us up well for the second half of the term.

Earlier this week, we were pleased to welcome all Year 11 parents into School to hear about Sixth Form options and it was great to also see a large group of children external to the School wanting to explore joining us next September. It is clear that our recent academic successes are drawing more and more families to consider the School. Thanks too to all the staff and students who helped on the evening to give such a warm and inspiring welcome to our visitors.

As you will read below we have packed a great deal into the past two weeks. One of the highlights of this term has been the Verse-Speaking and Singing House choirs – huge thanks to all those who took part but in particular to the student conductors who put so much time and effort into these really special events. Biology week and Black History Month have also been a great success and I particularly enjoyed joining in with the steel band that came into School.

There is a great vibrancy to the School at present – it is fantastic to see how much our students are enjoying the many opportunities that come their way and I'd like to thank the staff who go the extra mile in sourcing these opportunities which do so much to enhance the education here. I hope that all of our staff and students get a good break over the half-term holiday. I am looking forward to some down time and a short break to Madeira to recharge a little before the run up to Christmas.

Thank you for your continued support,

Kevin Fear (Headmaster)

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				15 <b>TODAY</b> Y7 HOUSE XC
18	19	20	21	22
←		<b>HALF TERM</b>	→	
25	26	27	28	29
←		<b>HALF TERM</b>	→	
1 <b>NOVEMBER</b> Y11 MOCKS START	2	3 DIWALI Y9 OPTIONS INFO EVENING	4 DIWALI	5 SCOUTS FIREWORK PARTY
8 ACTIVITIES FAIR	9 Y12 PARENTS EVENING	10 SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE  BRIDGE CUP WINNER'S CONCERT	11 SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE  REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY	12 Y9 DRAMA WORKSHOP

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 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 had an informative assembly from Dr Linton last week in which she explained what interim grades are as they will be receiving their interim grades for first time this half-term. We also celebrated 7A for being the form who have achieved the most distinctions this half-term. A special well done to Maisie, Zoe, Tom, Andrew, Myah, Jessica and Francesca for achieving the most distinctions in their forms. After a busy half-term we hope that Year 7 have a relaxing and fun half-term and come back refreshed and ready for another busy half-term!



## Head of Year 8 - Mr Oliver Pratten

It has been great to see the Year 8s making such a successful start to the school year. Mrs Gillett and I are impressed by their maturity, organisation and by the way they have put the disruption of the past year behind them. It was also fantastic to see so many of them taking part in the verse-speaking and singing choirs in the last week of the half term. It has been a very busy half term, and it is great to see so many students taking part in sport and co-curricular activities. We look forward to seeing the Year 8s using these activities to get their High School Award this year. The students who have achieved the highest number of distinctions are:

- Leah G, Sannlia H and Finley R with 17 distinctions
- Roman E with 18 distinctions
- Francesca A with 19 distinctions

Well done to these five students, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back after half term.



## Head of Year 9 - Simon Barr Smith

It has been a very busy fortnight. Many of the students have now signed up for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award and already I am hearing about a number of plans for the volunteering section. Our local community is going to benefit from this. House activities have dominated the calendar at this time and many have got involved in the choirs and the quizzes. It is very pleasing to see a number of our students take themselves out of their comfort zone to undertake a broad range of challenges such as singing, cross country running and so on. Finally, I do hope that everyone gets a good rest over half term after a very busy first half of the term.



## Head of Year 10 - Mr Paul Allison

Year 10 competed at Wollaton Park on Thursday for the annual House Cross Country, congratulations to Charles and Katie for winning their races. The ambassador scheme has increased further with students now organising Table Tennis and Athletics clubs for students in year 7 and 8. In PSHE this half term, students have covered topics on Illegal Drugs, Alcohol and Legal Highs. After half term the focus moves to Mental Health. Many students have competed for their school sports teams on Saturdays and many continue to attend morning, lunchtime and after school training. Congratulations to all of the year 10 students who performed in the House Verse Speaking and House Singing Choirs. Congratulations to Mellers house for winning both.

We hope the students can enjoy a rest over half term, returning refreshed for a busy build up to Christmas.



## Assistant Head, Individuals Y11-13 - Mr David Gillett

Our EPQ programme is now well underway, with students having attended several after school taught skills session on title setting and finding information and also meeting one-to-one with their supervisors. They have also all produced a 'Dragons Den' style presentation in which they have pitched their ideas for further research to their peers. As ever their ideas for academic research are imaginative and wide-ranging, from the impact of Facebook on political views to how Psychiatry can help investigate violent crime! Students meet regularly with their supervisors to discuss their ideas and gain support in how they can turn their academic interests into impressive academic essays. Young Enterprise has also been running for several weeks and Mrs Wicks and Mrs Wheeler have been impressed by the commitment and creativity shown by this year's cohort. Dominic Hayer ON has also been in to discuss the challenges and rewards of running a business as well as offering students invaluable business advice.



# BIOLOGY & SPACE WEEK

4th - 8th October 2021



**Students form a queue to observe the sun through the solar telescope!**

**Sampling edible insects at break time during Biology Week!**



**By Mr Duckett (Head of Biology) & Mr Theodorakis (Teacher of Physics)**

4th-8th October was Biology Week and Space Week and we had lots going on in school to celebrate. Highlights were a dissection special during Biology Club, a feast involving edible insects and Space snacks (including liquid nitrogen ice cream, guess which was the most popular) and students using a robotic telescope afterschool.

Students also took part in real scientific research through the Zooniverse citizen science projects and students from all years had the chance to attend a Biology Olympiad seminar on how bats 'see' using sound. There were also tutor activities, including a presentation about Black Biologists and Space scientists, a Biology-in-Space themed quiz and a vote for the school's favourite tree species. The beautiful Wild Cherry won this with 18% of the vote, very closely followed by Weeping Willow (not to be confused with Harry Potter's Whomping Willow) with 17%. The mighty English Oak was third (14%). Students had the opportunity to observe the Sun safely with our solar telescope and saw sunspots and gas being ejected off its surface.

The students were asked to image a comet with the 2 metre telescope in Hawaii which has been particularly active over the last month.

Our imaging of the comet will continue beyond space week as we observe how its outburst evolves! As part of our observing session the year 7s learnt about comets using our very own comet model made with dry ice, charcoal, and Worcestershire sauce. Our BioBake competition was won by Maha (year 11) and her gruesome heart cake, which is remarkably anatomically accurate considering it is made out of cake! I found it on my desk deposited in a small pool of 'blood', with an accompanying note, an experience which initially conjured up various scenarios from a few gangster/horror films until I calmed down... Runner-up was Mack (year 7) who managed to represent a whole body in his creation.

The annual Biology Photography competition was also launched and this year we had a new competition, an Inspiration Written Challenge, to tie in with Black History Month. Both of these continue beyond the week and the results will be announced in due course.

**Mr Theodorakis preparing the liquid nitrogen ice cream.**



**Frog dissection with Mr Hincks.**

**Model comet made with dry ice, charcoal and worcestershire sauce.**



# SCHOOL NEWS

## CCF UPDATE

Recently the CCF has taken part in an Activities day and a CCF (Army Section) 4-day non-residential Annual Camp at Beckingham training area. During the Annual camp the cadets took part in weapons training on both the Cadet GP Rifle and Scorpion Air Rifle. This resulted in the cadets successfully passing their Weapon Handling Test which meant they could now use the air rifles in a live shoot in the 25m indoor range.

Congratulations to Tom (Sniper) C-V for coming out on top of the shooting competition, well done Tom! The cadets also took part in a fieldcraft training exercise, where they took part in various lessons including, camouflage and concealment, introduction to cooking army ration packs, they were also taught observation skills which involved successfully identifying numerous military objects at various distances.

The activities day was a Tri-service affair, with the RN cadets delivering some great command task and physical training for the section. With Army and RAF taking part in fieldcraft training with the activity's day culminating in an orienteering competition with mixed teams.

Overall the CCF sections have worked hard on their cadet training syllabus recently and have completed some key modules towards gaining some badges, so well done everyone. Up next for the CCF contingent is preparing for and practicing for the Remembrance parade in November.



## Missed COVID Immunisation Notice

Please see this message from the School Aged Immunisation Service: *For students aged 12 to 15 years of age, there will be an immunisation session arranged for young people who were not vaccinated at their school session. Dates have not been arranged yet however arrangements will be publicised through schools.*

## Sixth Form PSHE

We welcomed Rachel Findler on Monday 11th October to talk about resilience, perseverance and overcoming fear. Rachel, who is a former pro skier, shared her story as to how she made it to the top of her profession as an extreme skier competing in the Free Ride World Championships. Following various injuries, Rachel has now set up her own Ski trip business and enlightened us to the pros and cons of setting up and running your own enterprise.



# SCHOOL NEWS

## Fundraising at Nottingham High School

The School's 1st Fundraising Manager, Sam Ellis and Headmaster, Kevin Fear share the ambition to see Nottingham High School expand its offer locally through its Bursary Programme.

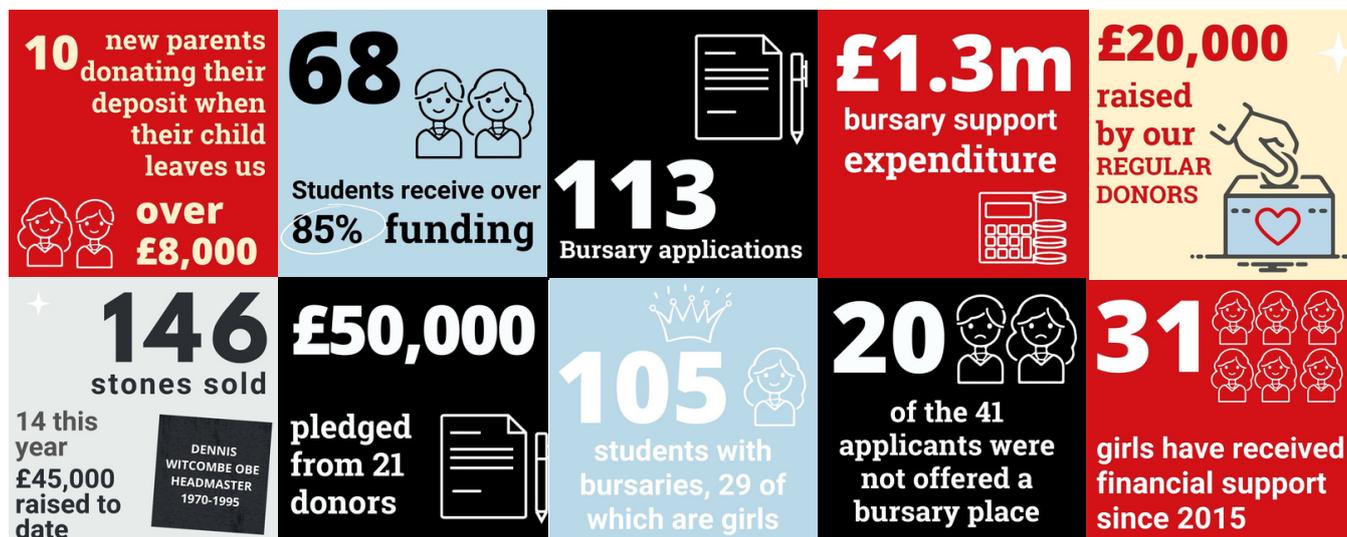
In October 2020, Sam Ellis joined the School's Development Office as Fundraising Manager, taking responsibility for building a sustainable Bursary Fund, as well as shared responsibility for Alumni communications and relations.

'As a parent of former students at Nottingham High School I have experienced, first-hand, the spirit and the culture of the School which was one of the reasons we chose Nottingham High School for our own sons. When the opportunity came along to join the Development Office, I jumped at the chance. The role offered scope for personal development, a supportive strong leadership team and lots of encouragement from a highly dedicated Board of Governors. This along with a vibrant School community, combining its long-standing traditions and values, with a desire for progression was very appealing.

We've got off to a great start which is representative of the generosity of the Nottingham High School community, securing enough money in the first 12 months to offer one additional child to study at the School from September 2022. 'I feel part of something really rewarding and worthwhile, knowing that through our work we are creating opportunities for children who would otherwise be denied their chance to study at the School. Our programme currently supports 1 in 8 students, we are determined to do more.

The Bursary Programme and the students who benefit from it enrich the lives of the School and all the students who study here. We welcome diversity and recognise the value every child brings to our school community united in: all united by a desire to create a school for children to flourish and prosper. Increasing our bursary fund will create more opportunities for children who may have the ability and drive, but not the means to realise their potential. I am really excited to be working with Kevin Fear and the team at this time. We're particularly looking forward to launching our regular giving campaign over the coming months where we will be asking our School community to help support our efforts.

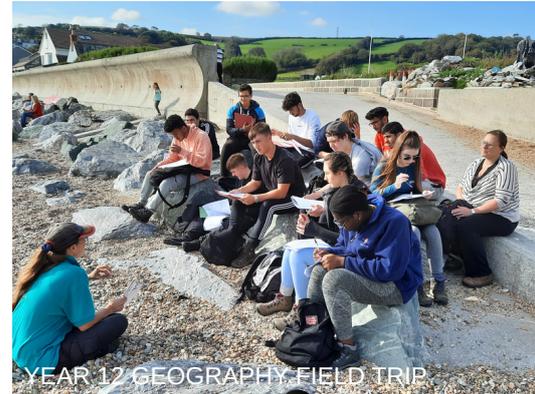
Take a look at some of our infographics to see the highlights of our year in fundraising



# SCHOOL NEWS

## Y12 Geography Field Visit to Slapton Sands

It was great to take our Year 12 Geographers away for their residential fieldvisit to South Devon. We were blessed with superb weather that really showed off the magnificent scenery at its best. Our course consisted of observing and measuring the changes to the characteristics of a river as we progressed downstream. We also took in the marvellous coastline understanding the processes that have created the landforms as well as understanding the need for a variety of coastal management techniques. The final day involved a trip around Dartmoor understanding the processes of weathering and the features that are formed as a result. The students have collected lots of data and they have started to analyse and explain their results. I am sure this trip will leave a lasting impression on our Year 12, with many memories created and hopefully lead to them having a greater understanding of this truly wonderful part of the world.



YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

## Bridge Cup

Congratulations to all students who participated in the Bridge Cup Finals on Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th October. There were record numbers of entries (297!) for the standards and the following students made it to the finals.

The adjudicator was Matthew Hopkins, Director of Music at Nottingham Trent University. A winner will be chosen from each category and those students will perform in the Prizewinner's Concert in November.

## Libby Burgess Recital and Masterclass

Renowned Concert Pianist, Libby Burgess performed part of the Bach 48 Preludes and Fugues in a piano recital on Thursday 14th October. This was part of the Project 48 series <https://bachproject48.co.uk/>. She performed the set of Bach preludes and Fugues 48 times, across 48 counties. The Nottinghamshire leg included performances at Southwell Minster, St. Peter's Church and the High School.

We are also delighted that she was able to give a masterclass for some of our advanced pianists on Friday 15th October. The students taking part were Adwin Gu, Evan Lam, William Harwood, Alexandra Arlachova, Adam Bennett and Adi Munshi. The students all performed superbly and learned a great deal about the technical and expressive aspects of their playing.



BRIDGE CUP AUDITIONS

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Black History Month

October marks Black History month in the UK each year. Alongside the school's commitment to inclusion and diversity within the curriculum, this year (thanks to the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions) we have been able to come together as a school community to celebrate. Mrs Daly began the month with an assembly focused on local Black History, introducing students to the story of George Africanus, who began his journey in the UK as a slave, but rose to prominence as a Nottingham landlord and influential entrepreneur by the time of his death. Furthermore, all Departments across the School have produced A3 posters to showcase the contributions of Black and Brown communities to our students. Students have been introduced to Professor Olivette Otele in History, Dr Maya Angelou in English and Dr James Esson in Geography, to name but a few. This has been a great way to shine a spotlight on Black and Brown figures within each subject, and generated lots of great conversations with students across the curriculum. In addition to this, it was fantastic, following the y.12 and y.13 Progress Tests, to have a Caribbean inspired menu and steel band in school, to celebrate the cuisine, music and culture of many staff and students within the School community. Celebrations such as this have been an absolute pleasure to be a part of and I look forward to working with the School community on plans for next year's celebrations.



STEEL BAND PERFORMANCE IN THE BRASSERIE

## Swimming Success

Congratulations to Anja, who recently got picked for the East Midlands Swimming Regional Development Day, one of the top 18 girls out of Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Northamptonshire and Leicestershire



SWIMMING SUCCESS FOR ANJA

## Young Musician of the Year 2021

Congratulations to the following students, both of whom have made it through to the Semi-Final of Nottingham Young Musician of the Year 2021 which will be held during the afternoon of Sunday 7 November in the Djanogly Hall of the University of Nottingham:

Benjamin S (Voice, Group 3)

Josie S (Trumpet, Group 3)

Mya P (Woodwind)

We wish them well in the next round.



# SCHOOL NEWS

## Sixth Form Open Evening

A highly successful evening was held this week for our current Year 11 students as well as a large number of external students and parents to give them information on what lies ahead at A level. Departments had put together fantastic displays and were busy all night speaking to students and their parents about the detail of studying their subject at A Level. Our Year 12 and 13 students were impressive in talking about their experiences and advising on next steps for our Year 11s including beyond the Sixth form and this was commented on many times by parents as they went round.

We had a huge number of our Year 12 volunteer to be prefects on the night and they were incredibly good at meeting and greeting and generally talking to the external parents and students about all aspects of the School and life in the Sixth Form. We look forward to seeing many students return again soon for their Taster Days.



SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

## Catering

Our Catering Team have been working hard on enhancing the school lunch menu and introducing new options into the choice provided. You can access the weekly menu through the web site from Friday lunchtime for the week ahead - School Catering - Nottingham High School.

The new jacket potato bar provides a wider range of fillings as well as salad and cakes or fruit salad and drinks. This new servery also reduces the pressure on the main dining hall with around 100 customers each day.

This new servery also enables us to provide a bespoke service for any child with medical dietary needs. Parents/carers can pre-order their choice of meal through email to [Catering@nottinghamhigh.co.uk](mailto:Catering@nottinghamhigh.co.uk) by 4pm the day before and they can collect their named meal from this servery. We are conscious of the increase in food allergies and also the diverse dietary preferences of our whole school and hope this service will provide further assurances of food safety for those who need it. If any parent/carer wishes to update their child's medical information or dietary requirements please use the catering email as we do maintain this information on our till system as a further safeguard against serving the wrong food.

The breakfast service is also proving very popular with parents and students and we are providing new daily specials into that menu too.

As always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions on all aspects of the catering service.

### SCHOOL LUNCH - Monday 11th October

	<b>Main Servery</b> Sticky Chinese Chicken or Quorn Tray Bake served with Rice, Stir Fried Veg, Sweetcorn and Prawn Crackers	
	<b>Variety Noodle Bar</b> Firecracker Pork or Vegetable Noodles	
	<b>Grab n Go</b> Malai Bunkit your own Qajun Chicken or Veggie Burger	
	<b>Puddings</b> Apple and Blackberry Crumble Orzoala	
	<b>Jacket Spud Bar</b> Jacket Potatoes with a variety of hot and cold fillings and salad	
	<b>Explore Chefs Bar</b> Variety of World Foods with daily changes from Sushi to Tapas to Indian Snacks and Lebanese Flatbreads	
	<b>Brasserie</b> Housemade Lamb Burger or Onion Bhaji Burger in Naan	
	<b>Soup of the day with bread roll</b>	

DON'T FORGET YOU CAN KEEP UP TO DATE ON OUR WEEKLY MENUS ON OUR WEBSITE, YOU CAN FIND THEM

[HERE.](#)

### SCHOOL LUNCH - Tuesday 12th October

	<b>Main Servery</b> Fish Pie or Roasted Pepper Tortilla served with New Potatoes, Carrots and Green Beans	
	<b>Variety Pasta Bar</b> Beef Bolognaise or Tomato and Basil Pasta	
	<b>Grab n Go</b> Sweet and Sour Pork or Vegetable Baochou	
	<b>Puddings</b> Brioche Bread and Butter Pudding	
	<b>Jacket Spud Bar</b> Jacket Potatoes with a variety of hot and cold fillings and salad	
	<b>Explore Chefs Bar</b> Variety of World Foods with daily changes from Sushi to Tapas to Indian Snacks and Lebanese Flatbreads	
	<b>Brasserie</b> Spicy Qajun Chicken or Quorn Burrito with salad and Chilli Coriander Slaw	
	<b>Soup of the day with bread roll</b>	

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Careers Update

Thanks to Dominic Hayer of My Nava and Goosedale for speaking to our year 12 entrepreneurs as part of the Young Enterprise programme. Inspired by his stories of always needing to rethink and develop a business to take advantage of market opportunities, students then considered how their infant businesses might grow and develop over the coming months.

We also heard this week from our local Army recruitment advisers, Katy and Amie, about the wide ranging opportunities on offer across all the Army disciplines. From paid gap year internships to bursaries and scholarship support with degrees, there really are some incredible opportunities for interested students.

Emily Rose and Krish took part in the Schools COP summit this week, hearing from inspirational engineers working on climate change solutions and taking part in discussions mirroring those taking place in Glasgow. As part of an online forum, students considered how engineers are already working to reduce the carbon footprint of the UK and how individuals and schools can make an impact on reaching net zero too.

The Schools COP Summit is part of Tomorrow's Engineers Week (8-12 Nov), which highlights engineering as a creative, problem solving, exciting career that improves the world around us. The edited broadcast will be published as part of the celebrations in November.

Don't forget: Free online work experience opportunities this half term with Springpod – deadline to sign up is this weekend at [www.springpod.co.uk](http://www.springpod.co.uk). Choose from a wide range of flexible 10-hour programmes in Law, Psychology, Finance, Business, TV & Film, Veterinary Medicine, Politics, Dentistry, Design, Engineering....

## HE & CAREERS FAIR

10am - 4pm on 26 November 2021

Come and learn more about...

UK & Overseas Universities

Gap Years

Apprenticeships

Career Taster Courses

Work Experience

Volunteering

### EXHIBITORS

The University Guys  
Burnett Global Education  
Investin Education  
GapForce  
NCS  
Amazing Apprenticeships  
EMA Training  
University of Sheffield  
University of Nottingham  
University of Birmingham  
Nottingham Trent University  
University of Leicester  
Loughborough University  
University of Newcastle  
University of Bath



Parents Welcome

## Vacancies

We're proud to have a friendly and diverse body of staff at the school across the academic and support functions, and we are often looking for new people to join our teams. We are particularly looking to recruit exam invigilators to join our existing team on a zero hours basis from January 2022 and a Food Technician to join our fantastic Food and Nutrition Department as soon as possible.

Take a look at our vacancies [here](#).



EAST MIDLANDS INDEPENDENT SECONDARY SCHOOL OF THE DECADE

NOTTINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL

## Food Technician



Are you looking for your next challenge? We are looking for a Food Technician to play a crucial role in supporting and directly improving students' learning experiences in Food Technology, working as part of a busy team, with a commitment to raising standards. Starting ASAP.

For further information & to apply: [www.nottinghamhigh.co.uk/vacancies](http://www.nottinghamhigh.co.uk/vacancies)

# SCHOOL NEWS GALLERY



Year 8s at Wollaton Park for XC



Cooper's Year 10 Quiz Team



Food Club



U12 Rugby at Worksop.



Year 10 enjoying the warm October weather outside.



U12b celebrate their first win!



Last week's DEAR day.



A beautiful morning on the Slapton Geography trip.



Y11 Biologists dissect mushrooms.



Cooper's House gather to celebrate 2nd place in the Verse Speaking.



Getting stuck in on the Geography trip.



Y10s enjoying table tennis in the quad.

# 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 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

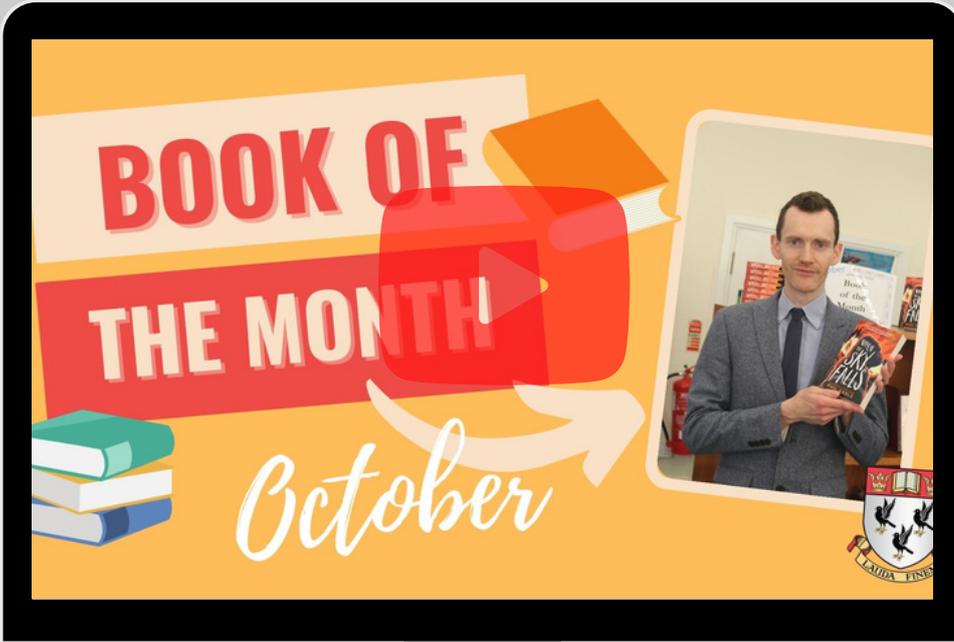
If you know in advance that your child is going to be absent from School, please apply for an Exeat by emailing [exeat@nottinghamhigh.co.uk](mailto:exeat@nottinghamhigh.co.uk). If your child is ill or unexpectedly absent, please telephone the School Reception on 0115 978 6056 before 8.40am on every day 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!

**If you would like to contribute a story to our newsletter, we'd love to hear from you!**  
**Please get in touch at [marketing@nottinghamhigh.co.uk](mailto:marketing@nottinghamhigh.co.uk)**

# FEATURED VIDEO



# QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“

**Take advantage of the opportunities you have but don't feel like you need to have everything figured out!**

”

**SAMUEL BALDRY (ON 2003 - 2010)**