



# THE MERLE

NOTTINGHAM HIGH SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



26TH NOVEMBER 2021 ISSUE 8



CAREERS FAIR 26/11/2021

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

It was fantastic to attend the Autumn Concert earlier this week and to see the Player Hall full again with a live audience and to see so many of our students performing at such remarkably high standards. Live events have been sorely missed during this pandemic period and whilst we worked hard to provide virtual content instead, nothing beats the live sound.

Beyond a small cluster in Year 7, which is thankfully not growing, we have very few Covid cases in school at present. It remains important though that twice weekly tests are carried out by all of our staff and students and hopefully then we can get to the Christmas holidays with no disruption. We really do appreciate your support with this as it is our best defence against an outbreak.

We have started to receive some information about the Plan B in the event that public exams could not go ahead next year and we will be holding information evenings for the relevant year groups.

A number of our Upper Sixth students have interviews between now and Christmas for some of the most competitive courses and I very much hope that these go well for them all.

Sadly, I was at a meeting in London on Children in Need day but was delighted to see a fantastic amount of money raised for this worthwhile charity. Thank you to everyone who supported this in any way.

It is hard to believe that we now only have just over 2 ½ weeks of the term left but there is still so much to look forward to with our production of 'Little Shop of Horrors' and also the annual Carol Service in St Mary's Church.

Finally, as we move to the winter period if ever there is bad weather on any day we would seek to put out information on the School website and on our social media feeds by 6.30 a.m. We will always do all that we can to keep school running as usual but any additional information will be posted as early as we can. Once students arrive in school we do expect them though to stay until the end of the day.

  
Kevin Fear (Headmaster)

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				26 <b>TODAY</b> PSYCHOLOGY BRAIN DAY RAF FLYING DAY
29 Y12 TASTER DAY Y11 TRANSITION INTERVIEWS Y11 TASTER LESSONS HOUSE BAKE SALE	30 Y10 HISTORY WWI EXPERIENCE DAY	1 <b>DECEMBER</b>  MUSIC - TEATIME CONCERT	2 Y8 PARENTS' EVENING Y12 TASTER DAY	3 SCOUT AGM LIGETI QUARTET
6 Y9 & Y10 OPTIONS DEADLINE Y11 & Y12 OPTIONS DEADLINE ABRSM EXAMS	7 ABRSM EXAMS	8 Y7 PARENTS' EVENING ABRSM EXAMS	9 MAIN SCHOOL PRODUCTION	10 MAIN SCHOOL PRODUCTION 1ST DAY OF HANUKKAH
13 Y8 - Y9 OPTIONS DEADLINE HOUSE ROWING PE : A LEVEL TRIP	14 CHRISTMAS LUNCH & CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY CAROL CONCERT (7PM)	15 END OF TERM 12:30pm	16 	17
20 SUPPORT STAFF ARE AVAILABLE TO CONTACT UNTIL 22ND DECEMBER	21 	22	23 SCHOOL CLOSED	24 SCHOOL CLOSED

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

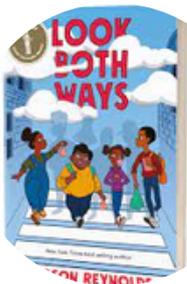
## Head of Year 7 - Mrs Hollie Neale

Year 7 have been coming up with lots of creative movie trailers and posters for their Independent Study Projects over the last 2 weeks and it has been wonderful to see them work together as they produce them. We look forward to them presenting their final products in a couple of weeks. Year 7 supported the Children in Need fundraisers on Friday with lots of cakes, Pudsey pin badges and Pudsey ears purchased as well as many of them producing excellent bakes to sell at the bake sale. In the final few weeks of term they will be working with the Year 7 prefects to help raise money for the school charities with some festive fundraisers.



## Head of Year 8 - Mr Oliver Pratten

As part of Year 8 form time this term, we have been working on a programme to help students develop their reading skills and enjoyment. The programme is developed from research about how to improve students' comprehension by allowing them to read for longer and by using a variety of different reading methods; teacher, student, individual and pair. Students are then able to discuss the text, plot and characters in more detail because they understand the whole story, rather than just a small part of it. We have been reading 'Look both ways' by Jason Reynolds, a collection of stories about the journey home from school. The programme has been a great success with students and teachers enjoying the extra reading time in the morning and the chance to read aloud to the rest of the class. You can find a link to the book [here](#).



## Head of Year 9 - Simon Barr Smith

Our focus for the last fortnight has very much been on what our students can do outside of the classroom. Mr Alexander presented an assembly for the Year 9 Co-curricular options and it has been great to listen to the discussions as to which of the broad range of activities our students prefer and are keen to commit to all the way through to Year 11. Whether their choice is CCF or Journalism Club, all the activities offer personal development and leadership opportunities. At lunchtimes, we have started a number of clubs just for Year 9 and run by sixth formers; these have proved very popular with choices such as table tennis, boardgames and Spanish culture. We will look to keep expanding the choices going forwards.



## Head of Year 10 - Mr Paul Allison

It has been another very busy fortnight for year 10 students and staff alike. Academic work continues to focus on GCSE syllabus, with the focus on preparation for end of year exams. It was very pleasing to see a number of year 10 students performing in the Autumn Concert and some involved in the school drama production 'The Little Shop of Horrors' which is showing in December. House activities have also included many year 10 students, including, House Rugby, House Hockey and House Badminton. A number of year 10's have also been invited to attend the General Knowledge team trials. Congratulations to Akhil who has been successful in being appointed UK Ambassador for 'Palm Oil Campaigners' something I know he shares a passion for with other students in school. This is a tremendous accolade. Congratulations also to Ayesha, Katie and Muskam for attending the 'Nottingham City Literature ambassador Day' on behalf of Nottingham High School. Year 10 Ambassadors continue to impress with their commitment to running clubs for younger students, there are now Ten clubs run by year 10 students, with a total of 18 Ambassadors. Year 10 continue with their PSHE lessons on Mental Health, with a new topic of Eating Disorders being delivered over the next few weeks. Topical assemblies for year 10 have included, 'Peer on Peer Abuse', Remembrance Service, Children in Need and an assembly on 'Simple acts of Kindness'. The School Council met on Monday to discuss some strategic questions in relation to co-curricular, academic and pastoral issues. Akhil and Sangita represented year 10.



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

It's been a busy two weeks for Years 11-13 with mock exams in full swing for Year 11. The Results Breakfast was a popular way to receive results and helped to prepare students for the real thing in August next year. It's great to have Year 11 back full time and we are impressed with how they have settled back into work. The 1st XV have been impressive in the National Bowl and are looking forward to hearing their next opponents in the National stage. Young Enterprise also continues to move forward to pace with groups selling their products at the recent Year 11 parents' evening. Finally, congratulations to Kian P for his third place in the National Judo Championships!



# CHILDREN IN NEED

Friday 19th November 2021

It has been another busy and productive half-term for Community Action. We have been enormously impressed by the dedication of our student volunteers and the generosity of the whole school community in response to our recent initiatives.

On 19th November, we arranged a non-uniform day and organised Pudsey merchandise stalls alongside a penalty shootout for Children in Need, raising £2,994.74 for the event. It was wonderful to see some of our students raising awareness in advance through posters and an assembly presentation.

The Pupils at the Infant and Junior School also got stuck in, hosting a book sale and creating Pudsey out of their donated coins.

In total, the whole School raised £3,986.72, a fantastic figure that will support so many Children in Need.



**Children in Need**  
We raised...  
**£3,986.72**  
Well Done to both our Senior School & IJS  
Students who raised a fantastic amount  
through non-uniform, bake sales, a book sale &  
many more activities

As we approach the end of term, we would be grateful to receive donations for the Bestwood and Bulwell Foodbank and NSPCC Toys Collection. More details to follow.



# SCHOOL NEWS

## Guru Nanak Mission

On the behalf of the Guru Nanak Mission in Nottingham, a small group in the sixth form are fundraising to collect mini toiletries for the homeless over the Christmas period. We would appreciate it if you could help your children collect travel-size toiletries to bring in before the 1st of December. Thank you.

## Guru Nanak Mission Donations

The Guru Nanak Mission is a local based charity where volunteers prepare, cook and serve hot meals to homeless and vulnerable people in Nottingham City Centre. Our aim is to produce assorted toiletry bags, for men and women, and help give these out alongside one of the Guru Nanak meals. We would also like to hand out a small chocolate selection box in christmas wrapping with each meal. We would appreciate your donations as they will help homeless people throughout the Christmas period.

- What you can donate:
- Toothpaste and toothbrush
  - Deodorant
  - Hand sanitizer
  - Shampoo and conditioner
  - Body wash
  - Bar of soap
  - Tissue packets
  - Feminine hygiene products (tampons/pads)

Please drop off any donations in the buckets in the sixth form office before the 1st of December!

<https://www.facebook.com/GuruNanakMissionNotm/>

**DONATE**  
travel-size  
toiletries

Photo: www.Pinterest.com

## Little Shop of Horrors comes to Nottingham High School

Nottingham High School Drama Department is proud to present 'Little Shop of Horrors' by Howard Ashman and Alan Menken.

The meek floral assistant Seymour Krelborn stumbles across a new breed of plant he names "Audrey II" - after his co-worker crush. This R&B-singing carnivore promises unending fame and fortune to the down and out Krelborn as long as he keeps feeding it. But what is Audrey II's intent?

If you wish to book tickets to see this charming tongue in cheek comedy, please book [here](#).

NOTTINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
*presents*

# LITTLE SHOP of Horrors

Book and Lyrics by Howard Ashman  
Music by Alan Menken  
Based on the film by Roger Corman

For tickets visit [trybooking.co.uk](http://trybooking.co.uk)

Thurs 9th Dec  
Fri 10th Dec  
Sat 11th Dec  
7.15pm

“And now it's suppertime!”

Founder Hall

## Name a Physics Lab Competition!

RENAMING OF THE PHYSICS LABS

# COMPETITION

YOU THE STUDENT BODY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RENAME THE FOUR PHYSICS LABS



THIS DOES NOT NEED TO BE A PHYSICIST THAT IS FAMOUS FOR A PARTICULAR DISCOVERY, IT MAY BE ONE THAT IS OFTEN NOT RECOGNISED BY MOST.

YOU MUST SUBMIT A PROPOSAL AS TO WHY YOU FEEL THEY ARE DESERVING OF THE ACCOLADE. THIS CAN BE IN WHATEVER FORM YOU WISH (FOR EXAMPLE AN INFOGRAPHIC OR A VIDEO THAT YOU HAVE MADE).

YOU CAN ENTER INDIVIDUALLY OR AS PART OF A SMALL GROUP

THE BEST FOUR SUBMISSIONS WILL BE USED TO RENAME S01, S02, S03 AND S07, AND YOU WILL ALSO RECEIVE A PRIZE AND CERTIFICATE.

**DEADLINE 15TH DECEMBER 2021**

## Christmas Bake-off is BACK!

Christmas Bake-Off is back and open to all Staff and Students. Bakers will be given until 13th December to plan, prepare and bring in their Christmas bakes, further details will be shared in due course.

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Local Sporting Opportunities

Our fantastic Sports Department have pulled together this really useful document to promote our local sporting clubs to our students, these sporting opportunities are a great way to compliment our Games options.

# Local Sporting Opportunities

CLICK THE LOGOS TO VISIT THE WEBSITE LINKS

**CRICKET**  
WOLLATON CC



**HOCKEY**  
BEESTON HC



**NETBALL**  
CITY NC



**RUGBY**  
PAVIORS



**GEDLING COLLIERY CC**



**BOOTS HC**



**CLIFTONETTES NC**



**NOTTINGHAM MODERNS**



**PLUMTREE CC**



**WEST BRIDGFORD HC**



**BRAMCOTE NC**



**NOTTINGHAM CORSAIRS**



**ELLERSLIE CC**



**NOTTINGHAM HC**



**STAPLEFORD NC**



**MELISH**



# SCHOOL NEWS

## Nottingham Young Musician of the Year

We are delighted to announce that Benjamin S (Y13) has won the coveted Nottingham Young Musician of the Year award. Previous winners include several of the Kanneh-Mason family, and ON Matt Glendening. The Final was held on Sunday 21st November in the Djanogly Recital Hall at the University of Nottingham, and the adjudicator was Stephen Threfall, Director of Music at Chethams School of Music. There were 6 finalists altogether, winners from each of the following categories - Strings, Woodwind, Brass, Piano and Voice, and an additional pianist.

Ben performed the following pieces for his recital: - "If There Were Dreams to Sell", by John Ireland, "King David", by Herbert Howells, "The Roadside Fire", by Vaughan Williams, "Sleep", by Ivor Gurney, and "Blow, blow thou Winter Wind", by Roger Quilter. The adjudicator praised Ben for his intelligent performance, demonstrating a high level of musical integrity.

Speaking afterwards about his performance, Benjamin said he thoroughly enjoyed the experience once he had overcome his initial nerves. He felt he was able to communicate well with the audience and he especially appreciated performing to his immediate family and friends, who have supported him throughout the process.

Benjamin studies voice at Nottingham High School with Tim Lole and is intending to pursue a career in music; he is currently in the process of applying for Universities and Conservatoires. Ben's dream is to travel the world as a solo performer and his passion is early 20th century English art song.



## A message from the Development Team

A personal thank you from The Headmaster, Kevin Fear. Take a look at our at how our donors have supported our work in 2020/2021

### In 2020/21 this is where our money came from

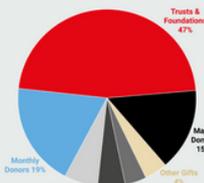


Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we are delighted to share that through our combined efforts we have secured enough money to fund one additional place on the Bursary Programme from September 2022.

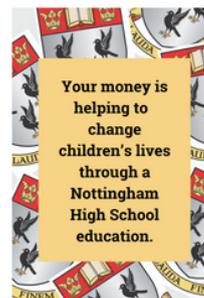
I would like to thank each and every one of you, your gift is helping us to change lives.



*Thank You!*



Throughout its long history, Nottingham High School has benefited from gifts. Frederick Cooper, Samuel Maples and Sir Thomas White added to the original endowment from our Founder, Dame Agnes Mellers in 1513. Over the last 500 years gifts have enriched the life of the School and ensured its continued growth. Today the School's Bursary Fund supports over 100 students.



## Art Outreach Day

Pupils from St Augustines Primary school joined the Art Department for an Art Outreach session. The pupils worked in pairs to create Green Man inspired clay masks. They learned about using templates, forming shapes and joining clay together. The pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and they can't wait to receive their clay later in the term.

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Results of Y19 National Schools Chess Competition

We hosted the first round matches in the United Kingdom's leading and most prestigious team competition for schools. This competition, formerly The Sunday Times and then The Times Championship, and more recently run by the ECF (English Chess Federation) has existed since 1957. The Championship is open to all schools in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Teams are of 6 players, who should be pupils of the school they represent.

Whilst the strongest teams are always very strong, they are offered automatic qualification to the Spring Term Regional Stage. Our School A team being one of them. Most teams are not as strong and many are quite inexperienced, so we use it to give competition and experience to our younger less experienced players as well as to those players who might well be our A team in the future. We therefore entered three other teams to play three matches. The other schools involved were Stamford Endowed School and Bourne Grammar.

In the Autumn Term 2021, teams seek to qualify for the Regional Stage in Spring Term 2022. So it was gratifying to see our B and C teams do very well and qualify for the next phase in the Spring term, where they will be joined by our A team. To have three teams into the next phase is very good and should give plenty of opportunity to those wishing to play.

### Results

#### Round 1

NHS C 1.5-4.5 Bourne A

NHS D 0.5-5.5 NHS B

Stamford A 5-1 Bourne B

#### Round 2

Bourne A 2-4 NHS B

Bourne B 2.5-3.5 NHS D

NHS C 5-1 Stamford A

#### Round 3

Bourne A 5-1 NHS D

NHS B 6-0 Stamford A

Bourne B 2-4 NHS C

#### Final positions :

1st NHS B 6 points Q

=2nd NHS C and Bourne A 4points Q

=4th And missing qualifying

NHS D and Stamford A. 2 points.

6th Bourne B 0 points

Congratulations to all our teams on a very good performance.

### House Chess Results

1st Place - Maples'

2nd Place - Cooper's

3rd Place - White's

4th Place Mellers'

Well done to all who took part!



### History Summer Camp with ISCA

A note from the Academic Director of the Independent Schools Cultural Alliance (ISCA):

ISCA has been running educational summer camps for Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils for the last 39 years.

To celebrate our 40th year, we will be running a new residential summer camp at Charterhouse School that complements the KS3 curriculum. We believe this August programme may be of interest to the families at Nottingham High School. ISCA will organise the summer camp directly with the parents, taking full liability for the programme. Pupils will explore 15 sights of historic and cultural interest which complement their KS3 History curriculum. Our ISCA staff deliver the programme, with a ratio of 1 teacher for every 5 pupils. Parents can then research the programme via our [website](#).



### Autumn Concert

We held our first Autumn Concert for two years this week and it was lovely to see so many of the performers' families there.

It was a fantastic evening and all our musical ensembles sang and played brilliantly. We are so proud of their hard work and commitment, this was displayed in the high quality of their performances.

The evening was a varied programme, with repertoire ranging from the 1600s to the 21st century and many ensembles, including numerous Bands, Choirs, the Orchestra, Strings and Jazz groups.

If your child would like to be involved in future musical events, all are welcome to join an ensemble or Choir. Information about the Music Co – Curricular programme is displayed in the Music School.



# SCHOOL NEWS GALLERY



Senior House Hockey



Team Ember, Young Enterprise, sell candles at Parent's Evening



The Scouts enjoy a day out in the Peak District



Rugby Fixtures at Valley Road



Cross Country



London ON Dinner - Friday 19th November



Year 10 French Ambassadors coaching Students



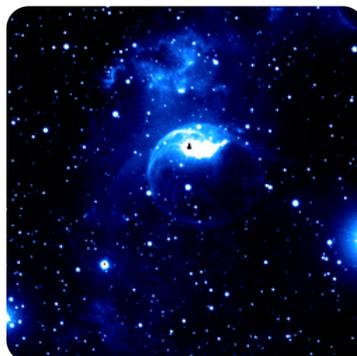
U14 Hockey



Year 10 Girls working hard in the gym



Rugby Fixtures at Valley Road



Telescope images processed by Student at Astronomy Club



Year 10 learn new kayaking skills

# 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

“

**Don't let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do!**

”