

THE MERLE

NOTTINGHAM HIGH SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



24TH JANUARY 2022 ISSUE 10



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

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Dear Parents,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the New Year and, if it is not too late for this, a Happy New Year to you all. Term has started well with the Year 13 Mock Exams now completed and thankfully in the Senior School we have had very few Covid cases so far to disrupt the start of term.

As you will have heard the government made a further announcement last week on the wearing of face coverings in schools. Face coverings are no longer mandatory for students in classrooms during lessons since last Thursday. They remain in place until Thursday 27th January for communal areas including the Sixth Form Centre, Dining Hall, corridors, assemblies and Form rooms at break times. Students and staff may, of course, choose to wear face coverings in classrooms, should they wish. Key to our Covid response is the twice-weekly testing that we ask all staff and students to undertake and we hope that we will continue to have your support in doing this as this really does help to pick up asymptomatic cases and prevent further transmission.

It has been good to see so many of the School activities back under way and I have enjoyed my visits to see both boys' hockey and girls' netball on our new courts. We have also had our first governors meeting of the term and I presented to them my report on the last academic year which was well-received. The meeting also heard details of our proposal for a new Wellbeing Centre and there was a useful strategic discussion about the potential provision of further bursaries in the future.

This weekend saw our entrance exam and it is very pleasing to report that this year we had a record number of children sitting. Our recent Sunday Times awards, the success of our home learning programme during the pandemic and all of your recommendations to friends and colleagues have meant that we have record demand for places. This is also the case in terms of the demand for places at Sixth Form level and this bodes well for the next academic year. Thank you to you all for all you do to help promote the School.

Kevin Fear (Headmaster)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
24 A LEVEL MUSIC MOCK RECITALS	25 Y13 PARENTS' EVENING	26 Y8 & 9 - 1513 AFTER SCHOOL	27 MATHS: BMO ROUND 2	28 WARWICK TRIP MUSIC PRO CORDA FESTIVAL HOUSE BAKE SALE HOLOCAUST CENTRE TRIP
31 Y11 ASSESSMENTS	1 Y11 ASSESSMENTS Y13 ASSESSMENTS	2 INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE Y7 THEATRE TRIP TEATIME CONCERT Y9 & 10 DRAMA PRODUCTION Y11 & 13 ASSESSMENTS	3 Y9 & 10 DRAMA PRODUCTION INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE Y11 PRACTICAL FOOD EXAM	4 MUSIC, JAZZ & CURRY NIGHT GCSE MUSIC RECORDINGS SCOUTS TRAINING HIKE
7 MUSIC DEPARTMENT PARENTS' EVENING	8	9 Y10 & 11 - 1513 AFTER SCHOOL CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
SCHOOL CLOSED FOR HALF TERM				
21	22 MUSIC Y9 OPERA DAY	23 Y8 THEATRE TRIP	24 LIGETI QUARTET IN SCHOOL	25 LIGETI QUARTET IN SCHOOL

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 settled back into school life following a well earned break after a busy first term. It has been great to see so many of them taking up new sporting opportunities in Netball, Hockey and Cricket training as well as trying out some new clubs for this term. We hope that every single student in Year 7 will get involved with aspects of the co-curricular life in school so that they can develop new skills, friendships and work towards achieving their High School Award. Mrs Andrews and I are more than happy to help students find a new club or activity to try out and they have a vast selection to choose from every lunchtime. We have started our second rotation for PSHE lessons this term and last week we started off by welcoming Equate into school to talk to Year 7 about Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships. The students were very engaged in the session with lots of them participating by asking and answering questions.



Head of Year 8 - Mr Oliver Pratten

The Year 8s have made an excellent return to school this half term. Mrs Gillett and I are impressed as ever by their enthusiasm and determination, and it has been great to follow their many achievements in and out of the classroom. Netball and Hockey have got off to an excellent start with outstanding attendance at after school practice every week. This term we are continuing our 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. This term we are reading 'Once upon an Eid', a collection of stories of Hope and Joy by 15 Muslim voices, and the students are enjoying the extra reading time in the morning and the chance to read aloud to the rest of the class.



Head of Year 9 - Simon Barr Smith

In our first PSHE lesson of 2022, Year 9 learnt about how to deal with masculine expectations in society today. They were challenged to break down some of the traditions and inequities that exist to make a fairer society for the future. The questions asked by our students were of a very high quality and they indicated that there was a very strong feeling to make things better in terms of the language that they use on a day to day basis and how they can create a fully inclusive community. The second part of the day was a series of workshops on empathy. The students learnt about how to develop these soft skills by undertaking a number of activities and then analysing their personal reaction to these. By understanding their own feelings they are better placed to appreciate the feelings of others. It was very enlightening for many and these skills will serve them all well in their future at the High School and beyond.



Head of Year 10 - Mr Paul Allison

The year 10 students returned after their Christmas break, refreshed and ready for the demands of another busy term. Our focus for the last fortnight has very much been on what our students can do to improve their leadership skills. They have been encouraged to create TED Talks based on their Independent Research Projects, they have been encouraged to attend co-curricular lunchtime activities where they can and to think about their involvement in activities out of school. Many year 10s continue to enjoy their Monday night activity, including CCF, Adventure Club and Journalism club to name a few and some have taken on leadership roles in their chosen activity. The year 10 Ambassador scheme continues to grow, the Cricket Ambassadors have started coaching our year 5 & 6 pupils on a Friday. Milo, Max, Zail, Kari and Jamie planned and delivered fun and engaging sessions. Congratulations to Isla who was selected to represent the Senior Girls Netball Team v Worksop College. Isla has been selected to play above her age group which is testament to her ability and commitment. A large number of year 10 students received their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award in assembly and many have chosen to continue with the Silver award this year. Finally, it has been great to see so many year 10 students playing Hockey and Netball for the school teams on a Saturday. The boys and girls teams have had a very productive start to their seasons. The Cross Country teams have also performed well in the East Midlands Independent Schools League. Congratulations to Katie and Phoebe who represented the Senior Girls Cross Country Team at Uppingham school.



Assistant Head, Individuals Y11-13 - Mr David Gillett

Our Year 12 students are well underway with their chosen prefect duties. Each of the younger year groups in the School has a dedicated team of students who work closely with them each week. This includes individual support for them during lunch break, helping to run clubs and generally being popular role models to them. Academic support in the form of paired reading in English and Maths buddy scheme is offered by others and departments such as Drama, Music and Sport are able to use talented, motivated prefects to help organise events and support students too. A few of our students have used their prefect role to set up their own co-curricular clubs in areas that they have a keen interest in, such as in Engineering, Computing and even a dissection club! The key aspect of this leadership role is that this is chosen by the students themselves and is an excellent opportunity for them to demonstrate and develop their skills in preparation for their UCAS applications and beyond.



ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP



Isabelle F, Y12

We are delighted to announce that Year 12 Student Isabelle F has been awarded a prestigious Arkwright Scholarship.

An Arkwright Engineering Scholarship is the most respected scholarships of its type in the UK to inspire and nurture school age students to be future leaders in Engineering. Scholarships are awarded through a rigorous selection process to high calibre Year 11 students, to support them through their A-levels and encourage them to pursue engineering, computing or technical design at university.

As part of the application process Isabelle impressed Arkwright with her GCSE D&T project; a design for a collapsible, portable cardboard desk for use in 3rd world countries to solve the issue of a lack of appropriate working spaces for school aged students.

Her teacher Mrs Hanson said "Isabelle is a passionate, creative and promising young Engineer who fully deserves this accolade."

Isabelle will be sponsored by BAM Nuttall - a leading edge supplier of civil engineering services founded over 150 years ago. Part of the Royal BAM Group & listed on the Dutch stock exchange,

The group is one of Europe's largest construction companies, employing 20,000 people globally, with an annual turnover of £7 billion.

Isabelle said "I am really pleased to have received an Arkwright scholarship, as the mentoring scheme will allow me to gain advice and guidance towards university and future career choices. It will also connect me to many experienced people within the engineering field that will be able to help me later on with my career. The process of applying for the scholarship has also helped me to advance my skills in writing applications and it has allowed me to greatly improve my interview and presentation skills, giving me more confidence with these going forward."

We are all very proud of Isabelle and look forward to seeing all that she achieves on her scholarship.

by Mr Charlwood
Head of Design and Technology

SCHOOL NEWS

CCF

Nottingham High School Combined Cadet Force has experienced a bumper intake for 2022. The contingent has been joined by seventy two year 9 new recruits who have joined across all three sections, Navy, RAF & Army. They join a thriving CCF contingent which now has over one hundred and sixty cadets on parade.

The Senior Cadets have started teaching the syllabus and many of the year 11, 12 and 13 Cadets take on a leadership role during the Monday evening parade night.

The Officer intake has also increased this academic year, which enables us to deliver a comprehensive range of activities for our cadets. We are also grateful to our MOD area training teams that assist with the delivery of our cadet training.

P. Allison – Contingent Commander

Second Hand Uniform

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who has donated uniform and sports kit. These items are resold at a discounted price to raise money towards our greatly important bursary fund. The bursary fund is used to provide financial assistance to students who might not otherwise be able to access education at Nottingham High School. The Bursary Fund is currently assisting 100 students! For more information on our bursary fund, including ways to donate, please [click here](#).

So far, through the resale of uniform and sports kit, we have raised a over £2500. If you have uniform or sports kit items that are of good quality but are no longer of use to your child, please donate them so we can raise even more towards funding student places. Our drop off point is the Student Services Office every day between 8am and 4pm.

If you wish to purchase, please contact our team via email operations@nottinghamhigh.co.uk with your item and size requirements. We will respond within 2 working days to let you know if the item you require is in stock and to arrange payment. Alternatively, appointments are available weekly on Monday or Thursday mornings between 8am and 9am to browse stocks and try items on.



Cross Country Running

Congratulations to Jake G who recently won the U17 North Midlands Cross Country League title for 2022. Jake competed in a series of races across October, November, December and January at various venues across the region. Jake also finished second in the Nottinghamshire AAA's Cross Country Championships on January 8th.



During the first weekend of the Nottingham County Swimming Championships,

Harry McK Year 10 became the 200m Butterfly County Champion.

Harry had to retire from a winning position on the 100m butterfly and despite finishing tenth in the 50m freestyle managed to reinforce his regional qualification in this event.

We wish him well in his events over the next few weeks,

SCHOOL NEWS

2020/21 Yearbook

Our 2020/21 Yearbooks are now available. You can view the online version [here](#) & hardcopies can be collected from the Marketing Office (at the end of the North Corridor).



Nottingham City Cross Country Championships - 12th January 2022

61 students represented the school in the Nottingham City Cross Country Championships at Wollaton Park on Wednesday 12th January. 16 students have qualified to run in the Nottinghamshire County Championships on Saturday 5th February at Berry Hill Park, Mansfield.

Year 7 Girls

Sofia - 1st
Team - 1st

Year 7 Boys

Tarun - 1st
Team - 2nd

Year 8 and 9 Girls

Team - 3rd

Year 8 and 9 Boys

Team - 3rd

Year 10 and 11 Girls

Katie - 1st
Team - 1st

Year 10 and 11 Boys

Jake - 1st
Charles - 2nd
Thomas - 3rd
Team - 1st

After School Club Manager

Do you know someone who is looking for their next challenge? Our Infant and Junior School are looking for an After School Club Manager to join their team. The hours of work are Monday - Friday, 3:15pm - 6:15pm (15 hours per week) and during school term-time only.

Full details on all of our current vacancies can be found on our website [here](#).

Opera Workshop Day

On Wednesday 19th, a number of Year 9 students took part in our annual Opera day. Students had the opportunity to work with professionals to develop their knowledge of Opera as well as their composing and performance skills. The day, led by one of our Visiting Music Teachers, Tim Lole, was a great success; beginning with workshops in the morning and culminating in a performance of Carmen, featuring the students' own compositions. It was a real treat to witness the processes behind Opera and the ability of the musicians and singers involved. Well done to all of the students for engaging in the day with great enthusiasm and a desire to learn, and thank you to Mr Lole and the team from Voice Choice!



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 complement our Games options.

Local Sporting Opportunities

CLICK THE LOGOS TO VISIT THE WEBSITE LINKS

CRICKET
WOLLATON CC



HOCKEY
BEESTON HC



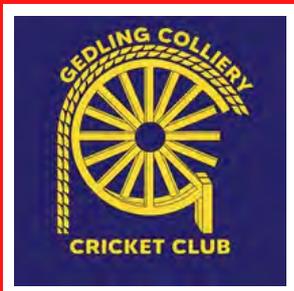
NETBALL
CITY NC



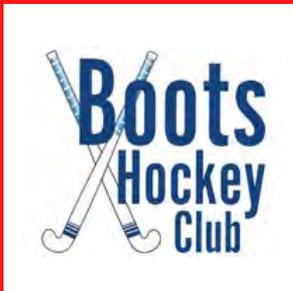
RUGBY
PAVIORS



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

Renaming of the Physics Laboratories

The winners of the renaming of the Physics Laboratories were announced in assembly this week. Students were invited to rename the laboratories after a physicist of their choice that embraces the diversity in the subject. A proposal had to be submitted that detailed why the student felt that their physicist was deserving of the accolade; it need not be for a particular discovery or theory.

The list of winners are as follows;

For **Laboratory S01** – **Akhil B** (Year 10) for Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar (Indian astrophysicist who suggested the minimum mass of a star that would not stay as a white dwarf, now known as the Chandrasekhar Limit)

For **Laboratory S02** – **Sonam S** (Year 8) for Carolyn Parker (the first known African American woman to gain a PhD in Physics)

For **Laboratory S03** – **Dan W** (Year 13) for Frank Nabarro (Old Nottinghamian engineer who oversaw the transition to a mixed-race university in South Africa after Apartheid)

For **Laboratory S07** – **Annie W** (Year 12) for Lise Meitner (Jewish atomic physicist who gave the first theoretical explanation of nuclear fission and was overlooked for the Nobel Prize)

The list of highly commended entries are as follows;

Esme W (Year 9) for Maggie Aderin-Pocock (astrophysicist and current presenter of The Sky at Night – BBC Four)

Holly P (Year 9) for Katie Bouman (major contributor to the algorithm used to take the first 'photograph' of a black hole)

Holly H (Year 12) for Joseph Priestley (known for his discovery of sulphur dioxide [$S02$ – $S02$ is the current room name for one of the Physics Laboratories])

Dan W (Year 7) for Paul Dirac (who first proposed the idea of antimatter)



Akhil B



Dan W



Sonam S



Holly H

Subrahmanyam
Chandrasekhar

Lisa Meitner



Maggie Aderin -Pocock



Frank Nabarro

SCHOOL NEWS

Sixth Form News

We have had 2 fantastic PSHE sessions so far this term. Year 12 heard from Adel, a Syrian refugee now settled and living in Nottingham about his 2-and-a-half-year journey fleeing the war in Syria and finally making it to the UK. His story challenged a number of misconceptions regarding the reasons for people fleeing their country. Year 13 heard from some ex Yr. 13 students about how they have found their first term at University. There was some great advice regarding budgeting, finding accommodation, Freshers week, mental health support and cooking on limited finance!

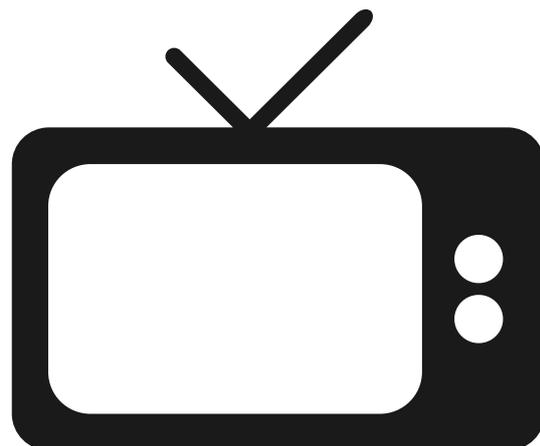
Congratulations go to a number of our sixth form students who have achieved in the recent Physics Olympiad. A special mention to Coy Z and Anna S who were awarded a Top Gold which puts them in the top 7% of all the students entered nationally. Congratulations also to Isabelle F in Year 12 who has been awarded an Arkwright Scholarship in Engineering.

Nottingham High School Hosts ITV's 'Without Sin' Film Crew

On the night of the 13th of January, at 2100, several mini buses pulled into the schoolyard. When the doors to the buses opened, out poured makeup artists, caterers, production assistants, and various actors. The film crew for the new ITV drama, titled "Without Sin", had been night filming throughout Nottingham and had needed a space to hold their "lunch break". The school was able to arrange for their film caterers to use our dining room to feed the forty member crew.

The four part psychological thriller was written by a new comer called Frances Poletti, a Nottingham native, who wrote the script specifically for the stars, Vicky McClure (Line of Duty, This is England '86) and Johnny Harris (This is England '86, The Salisbury Poisonings). The story follows McClure, a grieving mother and Uber driver, as she tries to unravel the mystery of her daughter's death. This endeavour spurred on by her visit to Harris whom is serving prison time for the murder of her child.

At the school for the night time "lunch", Vicky McClure graciously posed for a picture that is currently on Twitter [@EventsNottsHigh](https://twitter.com/EventsNottsHigh) (she has also "liked" the tweet!). Along with McClure, several actors dressed to represent the nightlife of Nottingham posed for pictures. There was even a gentleman who once attended Nottingham High School in the 60's, working on the set. Neil McKay had a nostalgic chat with Events Coordinator Kris Dougherty and marvelled at the all the changes to his school. The location scout team discussed with Kris about the possibility of "filming at the school" for future projects, then their COVID protocol team cleaned every surface and the buses pulled away as quick as they arrived. The only disappointment of the night was caretaker, Barry Jones, had hope he would be able to get on the telly.



SCHOOL NEWS

Jazz & Curry Night

We would like to invite you to join us at one of our upcoming music events, an evening of jazz, and a curry buffet on Friday 4 February (if you have already reserved tickets, thank you and we look forward to seeing you on the evening). Our Jazz and Curry Evening, held in the Dining Hall, is a fantastic evening and one of our most popular musical events, it is only held every two years therefore this is the first one to happen for four years.

The event is open to all, so if your child is not performing on this occasion, please come along anyway and enjoy the live music in an informal and fun atmosphere. Performing on the night are Jazz Academy, Big Band, Swing Band and Saxes (all conducted by Mr Toon who will also be compering), plus other ensembles and vocalists.

Tickets cost £15 per adult and £7.50 per child and include a starter served at your table followed by a self-service curry buffet with both meat and vegetarian options. There will also be a bar serving beer, wine and soft drinks to purchase from 6.30pm with food served promptly at 7pm.

If circumstances change and the event isn't able to go ahead as planned, a full refund will be given. Tickets are available and can be booked on the following link on [Trybooking](#); until booking closes on 27 January.

You are welcome to bring family and friends and organise a table exclusively for your group. If you would like to organise a table with friends, please email: musicadministrator@nottinghamhigh.co.uk We can then create a table with a named organiser and your friends can then book directly on to it. There are also tables to book for individual year groups if you would like sit with parents from the same year as your child.

Musicians performing at this event do not need to book a ticket. Students are welcome to sit with their friends - however, pupils in years 9 and below must be accompanied by an adult to this event.

Careers

Over the past couple of weeks there's been some encouraging news about employment for young people, with the Institute for Student Employers reporting a 20% increase in graduate opportunities compared to pre-pandemic levels (<https://ise.org.uk/page/graduate-job-vacancies-20-higher-than-pre-pandemic>). Top growth sectors are:

- built environment - up 48%
- energy, engineering and industry - up 41%
- health and pharmaceuticals - up 37%

The latest Top100 Graduate Employers report is also out (sign up to view here www.top100graduateemployers.com) with over 24,000 vacancies expected for the coming year in these organisations. Do create an account and explore the organisations and sectors that interest you.

For anyone wanting to get ahead thinking about future options, the following websites have some great opportunities:

Free:

- www.springpod.co.uk (work experience and degree taster courses aimed at school students)
- www.theforage.com (aimed at undergrads, but you can sign up as a 'high school student')

Part-funded:

- www.smallpeicetrust.org (STEM opportunities for years 8-12)
- <https://wearencs.com/summer> (very affordable 2-week scheme for year 11 students)

Costs money:

- www.investin.org (choice of online or in-person events for 12-18 year olds)
- www.careerdays.co.uk (online; for 14-17 year olds)

And for paid work try:

- www.mypocketskill.com
- www.e4s.co.uk

AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS TRAINING

SPRING TERM



Boys Hockey @ The Hockey Centre
Tuesdays - Year 7, 9, 10
Thursdays - Year 8 and Seniors

Netball @ Sports Hall
Mondays - Year 7 and Year 8
Tuesdays - Year 9 and 10
Thursdays - Seniors



Pick up 5:50pm at venue. Remember correct kit for sessions.
Note: Pick up for Year 7 + 9 Netball will be 5:15pm for the first half term. After Half term, all Netball bar Seniors will be at Valley Road until 5:50pm.

SCHOOL NEWS GALLERY



Y12 Young Enterprise Calendars



Adam Peaty uses the School Pool



A Great Turnout in the Gym



Year 12 Chromosome Brownies



Former Sixth Formers Return



Cross Country Girls



Year 10 Engineers



DofE Awards Ceremony



Astronomy Club Logo Designs



Sixth Form Chemistry Reading Group



Boys' Hockey Fixture



Netball Fixture

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 26 January and Tuesday 1 March. 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. 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**

FEATURED VIDEO



Nottingham High School



View Our Yearbook

[Click Here to Read](#)