



THE MERLE

NOTTINGHAM HIGH SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



4TH MARCH 2022 ISSUE 12



A FANTASTIC WORLD BOOK DAY ASSEMBLY
BY MS GUNTHER AND 4 OF OUR STUDENTS

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

I hope that all of our students and staff had a good half-term break. My thoughts are very much with those in our school community who have family links to the Ukraine – we are here to support your children in any way that we can. This week saw our 1st XV Boys' Rugby team qualify for the National Bowl Final to be played at the Saracens ground. Our team showed great spirit and determination in challenging conditions and played the game in a very sporting manner so it was a special semi-final all round and I wish them all the very best for the final itself.

I hope that many of you will come to watch the Spring Concert, ticket details below. There have been limited opportunities to see our talented musicians live in the past couple of years so it promises to be a real treat. You are very welcome to attend even if your own children are not involved.

I am writing this from a train to London, on my way to meet a potential donor to the School's bursary fund. This year our fundraising efforts enabled us to offer an additional three bursary places and it is important that we continue to raise such funding for the future. If any of you are able to help in any way, large or small, please do get in touch.

Finally today I would like to welcome our new Director of Finance and Operations, Harriet Avison, to the School. She replaces Stuart Ramsey who has retired and we thank Stuart very warmly for all that he has contributed to the School in recent years. He played an important part in the School's recent success. We look forward to working with Harriet in the coming years and she too will make a significant strategic input to our future decision-making.

Best Wishes,

Kevin Fear (Headmaster)

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				4 TODAY SCOUTS NIGHT HIKE
7 A LEVEL DRAMA PREP Y10: CHRIS HEMMINGS TALK	8 SPORTS TEAM PHOTOS	9 TEATIME CONCERT STRINGS (5.15pm) WOODWIND & BRASS (6.15pm)	10 MUSIC: JESS GILLAM MASTERCLASS A LEVEL DRAMA EXAM	11 PSYCHOLOGY: BRAIN DAY SWIMMING: BATH CUP
14 A LEVEL MUSIC RECORDINGS Y10-13 PSHE: JAMES SHONE & PARENTS	15	16 Y9 PARENTS' EVENING RAF FLYING DAY	17 INTERMEDIATE MATHS OLYMPIAD	18 DRAMA: THEATRE TRIP TO LONDON
21 HOUSE BAKE SALE	22 Y10 MATHS FEAST	23 DEAR DAY Y8 AUTHOR VISIT	24 SPRING CONCERT	25 Y7 NETBALL @ CONDOVER HALL Y10 DRAMA: FRANTIC ASSEMBLY
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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

Last week, Myah and Jessica (7E) presented a brilliant assembly to their peers on the topic of resilience. This was a topic that they both felt passionate about delivering and they had spent time preparing and practising this together. Last Monday (28th) Year 7 had an online course from Britannica on how to use their online encyclopedia. This was arranged by our librarian, Ms Gunther, and the students thoroughly enjoyed learning how to use this e-resource. They will be able to use it across a wide range of subjects and in their current independent study project. This was launched by Dr Sims, the Head of Classics, on Monday and it will see students research, create and present a project on a myth related to metamorphosis. It was great to see the students so excited about delving into the Classics world and we look forward to seeing what they create. They will be treated to an exciting talk by Caroline Lawrence at the end of the month, who is the author of the Roman Mysteries series.



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. Of particular note this term is 'Cereal Wars' challenge that the students are taking part in during independent study. The students are working together in groups to develop a new brand of cereal. They have had to carry out research, putting together a marketing plan, design the packaging and then work out their pricing based on their finances. There are some great ideas and next week we begin our 'Dragon's Den' presentations to pick a winner from each form. We will then go on to pick the Year group winner from the finalists at the end of term. Good luck to all those involved.



Head of Year 9 - Simon Barr Smith

It never ceases to amaze me how much our Year 9 students can fit in to a single day. It has been a pleasure to hear about the netball and hockey successes in the last month as well as the commitment many of our students make to music in the school. At our most recent year group assembly, we were treated to a performance by the Year 9 String Quintet who played Hagrid's Theme from Harry Potter. It was a wonderful way to showcase their talents in front of their peers. Well done to Priya, Sam, Anagi, Gracey and their hard-working conductor, Mr Hipkiss. I should also mention the efforts of Harry, Imogen and Lilly who have been working with our Junior School pupils in the Steam School, inspiring younger students in these subjects. Finally, a quick reminder to those students who are starting their Duke of Edinburgh journey; don't forget to submit all the relevant skills information to their DofE accounts.



Head of Year 10 - Mr Paul Allison

Year 10 have been busy in the classroom and with their co-curricular activities since returning from their half term break. The focus now is a revision schedule to prepare the students for their end of year exams after Easter.

The PSHE theme this term is 'Respectful Relationships' and the students have taken part in lessons covering topics such as Equality, Peer on Peer Abuse and Sexual Harassment.

Year 10 have also attended assemblies on 'Spending Money Wisely and 'Celebrating Success'

The Year 10 Council Representatives attended the whole school council meeting to discuss this terms strategic questions. The Sixth Form Leadership team will be presenting their report to the SMT.

The whole year group were involved in 'Developing Empathy' workshops, presented by our guest speak, Chris Hemmings.

Sport continues to play a big part for many students in Year 10 with many representing hockey and netball fixtures and after school training sessions.



Assistant Head, Individuals Y11-13 - Mr David Gillett

Things continue to progress well for Years 11-13 and it was a pleasure to welcome Patrick Foster to school on Monday to talk about his career, his battles with an addiction to gambling and his future. His talk moved everybody and we hope that the students will remember his core message, namely how important it is to ask for help as soon as it is needed and how nobody has to try to battle anything alone, no matter what the problem. Senior students have also enjoyed lots of success in Chess, Volleyball, Cross-Country and Hockey and congratulations go to the XV for their victory in the semi-final this week. Year 13 students have received a great number of university offers and have advice about making decisions. Offers could keep coming in for at least next two months and so those still waiting should not worry.



SCHOOL NEWS

Lost Property

In order to reduce the amount of lost property within school here are ways that you/your child can help...

- Store personal items in lockers. Please provide a suitable padlock to secure belongings
- Storage for sports kits on the racks is limited. Please remind your child to only bring sports kits on the day it is needed and take it home at night. Kits that are left for a number of days will be treated as lost property and taken to our reception desk. Racks will be regularly cleared of all items
- Affix an identity label to valuable items such as tablets/laptops/smart watches and activate electronic tracking methods for example 'findmyiphone'
- In line with our dress code, jewelry is not permitted within school
- Name labels for water bottles

Our lost property point of contact is our reception. If your child has lost an item, please ask them to check with us or phone us on 0115 978 6056.

Linguistics Olympiad

We would like to congratulate our UK Linguistics Olympiad winners.

Alexandra A, William H and Daniel W all won Bronze certificates.

Katie G gained a Silver certificate.

Em A achieved a Gold certificate and progresses through to the next round. This is a huge achievement and we are all delighted.



Young Enterprise - Market Day

Last Saturday, our 6 Young Enterprise teams took part in the Nottinghamshire Market day at Sneinton Market. We were blessed with sunny weather and the early morning dog walkers provided a captive market for Team Stellar and their dog toys made out of unwanted clothing. Footfall picked up towards late morning and all teams were busy selling during the last hour of trade. Between all the schools who competed, over £1200 was taken in sales revenue. Next stage of the competition is the formal interview and presentations which are taking place in the next two weeks at NTU. We wish all 6 teams the best of luck in the last few weeks of the competition.



Student Success

Will H (Year 10) has qualified to represent the East Midlands in the National Rowing Championships with his quad. As well as his rowing success, Will H is a runner-up in the Immerse Education Essay Competition for his essay on Cybersecurity. He has been awarded a 50% scholarship for the Computer Science Summer School at Cambridge University.

SCHOOL NEWS

Jess Gillam Recital

We are delighted to have the acclaimed saxophonist, Jess Gillam, visiting us on Thursday 10 March. She will be delivering a workshop and masterclass in school during the afternoon, working with some of our musicians and ensembles. Afterwards, at 4.30pm, she will perform for 30 minutes together with Sam Becker on double bass in the Recital Hall for students, parents and staff.

We would like to invite you to come and watch the recital performance by Jess: the opportunity to see a performer of this calibre shouldn't be missed.

This exciting event is a free of charge, if you would like to attend please book on the following [link](#) so we know the numbers attending on the day.



Business Club Returns

We're excited to re-launch our Business Club and hope a few of you can come along and see us on 31st March.

The Business Club is a great opportunity to introduce your business and to network at Nottingham High School.

Please register your interest by clicking on the following [link](#).

We hope to see you there!

Beth Shalom, National Holocaust Centre

On Friday 28th January, Year 9 students visited Beth Shalom in Newark. Students spent the day touring an exhibition, viewing the memorial garden, and listening to the Holocaust Survivor Martin Stern. We are the first school to have donated a plant with a plaque to Beth Shalom that will bloom in their rose garden later this year. Well done to Benjamin Sale, Nishaan Singh, Holly Palmer, Anna Ratan and Chloe Jones who won prizes for their moving reflections of the day. As one student observed when discussing seeing so many victims' names and photos, "these weren't just pictures but actual people." Year 9 have since spent this term learning about Anne Frank, what the Holocaust was, and will have completed research presentations on the theme Courage to Care. A selection of the work students at the High School have completed have been requested by the Holocaust Centre to form a digital display showcasing the input of local schools.



LGBTQ+ History Month

We are pleased to announce that the total amount raised during LGBTQ+ History Month was a whopping **£2,526.98**.

Thanks to all who helped to raise money and awareness during LGBTQ+ History Month.

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

Chemistry Success

In January, 27 High School Chemists from Years 12 and 13 took part in the UK Chemistry Olympiad organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry, taking a two-hour paper aimed to stretch the very best A-Level students across the country. The exam is best described as 'really hard Chemistry' and this year we are delighted to say that our students have attained exceptional results.

A very special mention should go to Anna S, as she has qualified for the second round by finishing well inside the top 34 students out of a total of 8668 nationally who took the paper – an absolutely fantastic achievement. Good luck to Anna for the next round in early April!

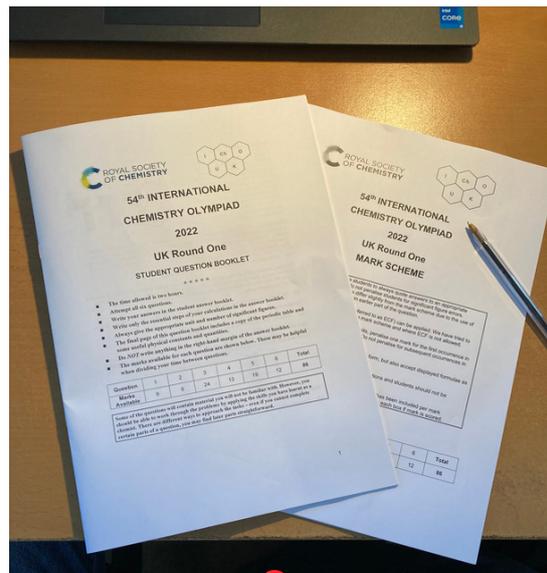
Congratulations to those gaining the prestigious Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards:

Gold Award winners: Anna S, Neel B, Grace F, Qing L, Rohan S, Henry B, Vithurshan S

Silver Award Winners: Martha B, Charlie D, Jin T-Z, Al Qavi H, Abdullah S, Archie J, Brendan M, Chidi A.

Bronze Award Winners: Perran G, Stephanie B, Andrew B, Evie B-S, Martha C, Arrandeep M, Benedict O'D

A big 'well done' to all who took part.



IAU Women & Girls in Astronomy

During the International Astronomical Union's Women & Girls in Astronomy project we are celebrating some of our bright young female astronomers and encouraging others to celebrate the contributions women have made to Astronomy.

We are running a creative writing competition where we ask students to write a short story about a female astronomer/astronaut or write about the life and accomplishments of a female astronomer.

In Astronomy Club we will be learning HTML to showcase our telescope photos and research on female astronomers using a simple website.

One of our young astronomers that we are celebrating is Holly in Year 9. She said: "I find space very interesting as it is full of mysteries that we are yet to discover and its full of answers which we will hopefully one day find. In the future I would like to be part of the people helping research and unravel those mysteries."

Women & Girls in Astronomy

11 February - 8 March 2022



COMPETITION

Write a short space/astronomy story with a female lead
or
Write about a female astronomer's life and accomplishments

DEADLINE

16th of March
Email your writing to Mr Theodorakis

Prizes Include: The book Women Astronomers: Reaching for the Stars by Mable Armstrong

SCHOOL NEWS

Spring Concert

All families are warmly invited to the Spring Concert taking place at Nottingham's Albert Hall. Featuring the school's Big Band, Concert Band, Year 13 Leavers, the whole of Year 7, Chamber Choir, Orchestra & Senior Strings. You can book your place [here](#).

Politics News

Our Year 12 Politics students are currently studying the topic of Pressure Groups. In a recent lesson they were joined online by Etienne Stott, London 2012 gold medallist and Extinction Rebellion climate change activist. Their discussions with Etienne, who gave of his time freely and explained complex matters with great clarity, have furthered student understanding of the topic and provided arguments and examples to use in answering questions related to the factors affecting pressure group success and whether pressure group activity enhances the quality of UK democracy.

In a busy period, Junior PPE club is also running on Monday lunchtimes this term. Some of our senior Year 13 students have put together sessions to make aspects of Philosophy, Politics and Economics accessible to younger students. So far, we have covered topics such as the working of Parliament and the basis for international trade. At the request of our club members, we will soon do a session covering the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Other planned sessions include arguments for the existence of God, prenatal rights and game theory. Pictured are Hannah, Ethan and club members discussing the North Korean economy. We are very grateful to student Chair of the PPE Society, Joe, and all his team for their super efforts and the enjoyable sessions they have put together. The PPE Society also arranges lunchtime talks open to students of all ages and over the next couple of weeks two MPs, Ben Bradley and Robert Jenrick, will speak and answer questions.



Careers

Huge thanks to all our guest speakers who have been in during the past couple of weeks – Isaac Murdy (ON), who spoke to the Student Law Society about a career as a Solicitor and his current day to day role as a trainee; Dr Sleigh who spoke to Chemistry students about Drug Development and his work using NMR technology; Ryan Hanks who talked about becoming a Pilot and his decision to go straight into this career after A-levels; Ben Bradshaw who spoke to the student PPE Society about life as an MP. It's been wonderful to have students take the lead in organising these talks too.

Next week is National Careers Week #NCW2022, so do keep a look out on social media for the latest information and opportunities from organisations across the UK.

There are many new free online courses at www.springpod.co.uk and new courses coming up in March and April at www.skillsgap.tech for anyone interested in learning more about the latest AI developments in engineering, aerospace, nanotechnology and astrophysics. There are also paid opportunities for those aged 13-21 on the www.mypocketskill.com site and app (parental permission required to join).



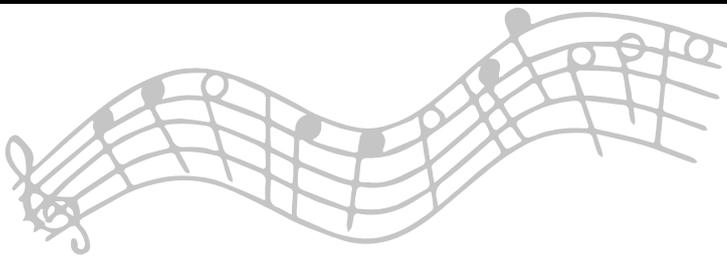
SCHOOL NEWS

Ligeti Quartet

We were delighted to welcome our quartet-in-residence back to the school last week. They spent 2 days working with students across the Junior and Senior schools.

On the first day they delivered a series of masterclasses for the Junior Strings, Sinfonia, Senior Strings, Y7 & 8 Quartet, and the Y9 Quintet. The quartet said they enjoyed the energy and talent of the students, and we certainly learnt a great deal from them in return. The following day was spent with GCSE and A Level music students from Y10 – 13. The Ligeti were able to perform the compositions of our students. They talked a lot about phrasing and mood, explaining how it is so important for students to include an indication of the character they are aiming to achieve in their pieces through the expressive detail.

The quartet are currently recording an album of music by the British composer, Anna Meredith. <https://www.annameredith.com/> We are looking forward to their final visit next term, when Anna will join them to deliver a performance workshop specially designed for our students.



Cricket Spring Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
07.15-08.30	07.15-08.30	07.15-08.30	07.15-08.30	07.15-08.30
Y9 Open to All	Y8 Open to All	Y9 Open to All	Y8 Open to All	Junior School Cricket
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12.45-13.30	12.45-13.30	12.45-13.30	12.45-13.30	12.45-13.30
Y10 Open to All	Y7 Open to All	Y10 Open to All	Y7 Open to All	Seniors Y11-13
After School	After School	After School	After School	After School
16.00-18.00	16.00-18.00	16.00-18.00	16.00-18.00	16.00-18.00
Y7 Cricket Nets	Y8 Cricket Nets	Y9 Cricket Nets		Seniors Y11-13
		Week B - Y10 Open to all		



AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS TRAINING

SPRING TERM

February to Easter



Boys Hockey@ The Hockey Centre
Girls Netball@ Valley Road

Tuesdays- Year 7, 9, 10
Thursdays- Year 8 and Seniors
(Senior Netball will remain in the sports Hall)



Pick up 5:50pm at venue. Remember correct kit for sessions.

SCHOOL NEWS GALLERY



Pancake Day Fun



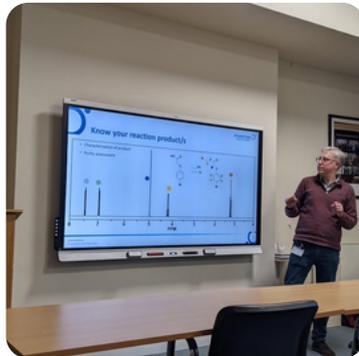
World Book Day Assembly



Fantastic win for the 1st XV in the semi final!



Y8 Cricket



Dr C Sleight delivered an excellent lunchtime lecture



U12 Hockey



The Steel Band returned to help us celebrate the end of LGBTQ+ History Month



Netball Tournament



A visit from Gabe (ON) to discuss life after School..



Sushi making during food club



Astronomy Club



Y8 made some fabulous Spaghetti Carbonaras this week!

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. 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

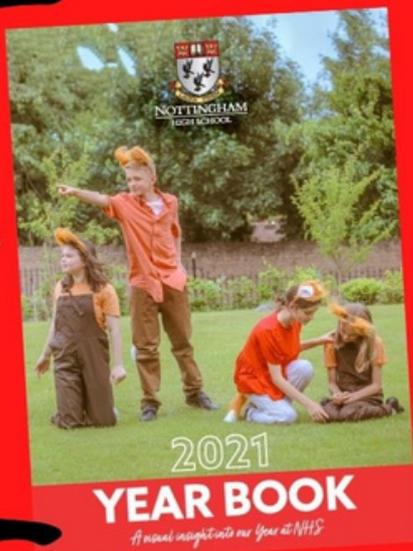
iParent and iStudent are extensions from iSams and will give you access to important information anytime, anyplace, anywhere. Download the iParent app from your mobile phone app store for free!

**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](#)