



THE MERLE

NOTTINGHAM HIGH SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



13TH MAY 2022 ISSUE 16



THIS WEEK WE BID FAREWELL TO OUR CURRENT YEAR 13. WE WISH YOU ALL THE BEST OF LUCK WITH YOUR EXAMS

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A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

The School seems much quieter now that our Year 11 and Year 13 students have embarked on their study leave. We wish them all well with their forthcoming exams but remind them that we are very much here to support them if they need any guidance in the coming weeks. Those in Years 7-9 have their end-of-year exams after half-term so need now to be organising themselves ready for those.

For the past few months I have been working on a new mission statement for the School and on a set of values that we will build our new strategic development plan around. I was pleased therefore that the School's governors have now approved these. I will share much more on this topic at the start of the next academic year but we are now starting work on our plans for the next phase of the School's work. As parents you will be sent a questionnaire so that you too can contribute to this important work with any ideas that you have, further details to follow.

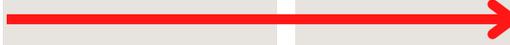
I am pleased too to announce that the School has been accredited as a Real Living Wage employer. The real Living Wage is the only UK wage rate that is voluntarily paid by almost 10,000 UK businesses who believe their staff deserve a wage which meets everyday needs - like the weekly shop, or a surprise trip to the dentist. We join a broad range of employers accredited with the Living Wage Foundation including half of the FTSE 100 and big household names including Nationwide, Google, Brewdog, Everton FC and Chelsea FC.

We felt that it was important given the current rate of inflation that many of our lower paid staff are able to have this support towards their rising household bills. We do want to be an 'employer of choice' and steps like this are important with this in mind.

On a personal note, I am in the process of moving house from Quorn to Bassingfield, a village on the edge of Nottingham. I am looking forward to the shorter commute and running/cycling along the canal towpaths. Packing up boxes in the middle of a busy term has had its moments but it will be lovely to relax in the new house when it is all done.

Kevin Fear (Headmaster)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				13 TODAY SIXTH FORM BALL
16 EPQ MARKETPLACE Y13A CRICKET CUP FIXTURE	17 MUSIC: Y10 SOLO RECITAL	18	19 Y10 GEOGRAPHY TRIP	20
23 Y9 AUTHOR VISIT	24	25 Y7 TASTER DAY <small>for current Y5 external Students</small> RAF FLYING DAY	26 SCHOOL QUIZ	27 Y7 AUTHOR VISIT
30 	31	1 HALF TERM	2 BANK HOLIDAY SCHOOL CLOSED	3 BANK HOLIDAY SCHOOL CLOSED 
6 SCHOOL EXAMS BEGIN (Y7,8,9)	7	8 Y10 BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP	9 EXAMS END Y7 & 8 Y10 SPRING LAKES	10 EXAMS END Y9 Y10 BACK IN LESSONS Y8 CREATIVE DAY Y7 ENGLISH TRIP

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



This week, the form representatives had a year group council meeting in which they discussed the topics ahead of the whole school council meeting on Monday. This meeting was led by some of our Year 12 prefects and Beate and Tanish will be attending the whole school council meeting to put forward the Year 7 ideas. Tanish led an excellent assembly to Year 7-10 on Monday in which he challenged students to consider the impact we are having on our planet and we look forward to Daisy's assembly next week. Mr Spedding and Mrs Simpson also led an assembly this week on the end of year exams after half-term. This included some useful tips on what effective revision looks like as well as going through the rules and expectations for exam week. Please have a conversation with your child about this assembly and how they are going to make use of their time between now and the exams. Students will be chatting more about this with their tutors over the next two weeks and Mr Glarvey will be running a revision workshop with Year 7 on Monday 23rd May during lesson 3.

Head of Year 8 - Mr Oliver Pratten



The Year 8s are beginning their preparations for their end-of-year exams which begin on Monday 6th and finish on Thursday 9th June. Teachers are talking to students in lessons about how to prepare, and we had an assembly this week from Mr Spedding and Mrs Simpson which covered:

- How the exams work
- How to revise
- Exam rules

The Year 8s have also received an email from school which covers these points, and we'll be working with them in form and tutor time to help them plan their revision timetables. The key messages we'll be talking about are to think about what revision techniques work best for them and to plan a balanced revision timetable that allows them to enjoy the holidays and doesn't leave everything until the last minute. The last day of exam week will be an activities day where the students will get to take part in creative workshops around the school.

Head of Year 9 - Mr Simon Barr Smith



In my recent assembly I asked the year group to consider how they had changed/matured during the year. It was an opportunity to reflect on what can be achieved in a relatively short space of time if you are willing to embrace the support and activities on offer. Mrs Turney and I were able to share our own observations of what we had witnessed, especially with the development of some of the soft skills in our students. Many of our students will be embarking on their Duke of Edinburgh expedition this weekend and I wish them well. It will give them a further opportunity of growing those teamwork skills which are so important. Finally, it has been great to see so many of the boys and girls representing the school at cricket this term and with such success. Keep up the good work everyone.

Head of Year 10 - Mr Paul Allison



Year 10 spent the first two weeks of term completing end of year exams in all subjects and the recent parents evening allowed the teachers to give constructive feedback on this series of exams. Outside the classroom, many of the year 10 students completed their Silver DofE expedition and are now preparing for their assessed walk. There has been a packed sports programme with mid week and weekend fixtures and over 80 students taking part in either Rounders, Tennis, Cricket and Athletics. In the recent English Schools Athletics cup there were a number of new school records set and over 30 students competed.

Year 10 are now taking part in their transition to year 11. This involves joint assemblies with year 12 and a move to the year 11 form rooms after half term. Year 10 students will also join their senior tutor sets as part of the transition. In PSHE the students continue to focus on current trends in society.

Assistant Head, Individuals Y11-13 - Mr David Gillett



The focus over the past few weeks has been on assessments for all year groups, as well as wishing Year 11 and 13 well for their period of study leave. It was emotional seeing Year 13 have their final lessons but we are all looking forward to their leavers' events, including this week's ball. Year 12 had their first personal statement session in PSHE last Monday and will be able to begin their UCAS forms soon.

FROM THE ARCHIVE: ONE HUNDRED YEAR OLD REPORT CARDS

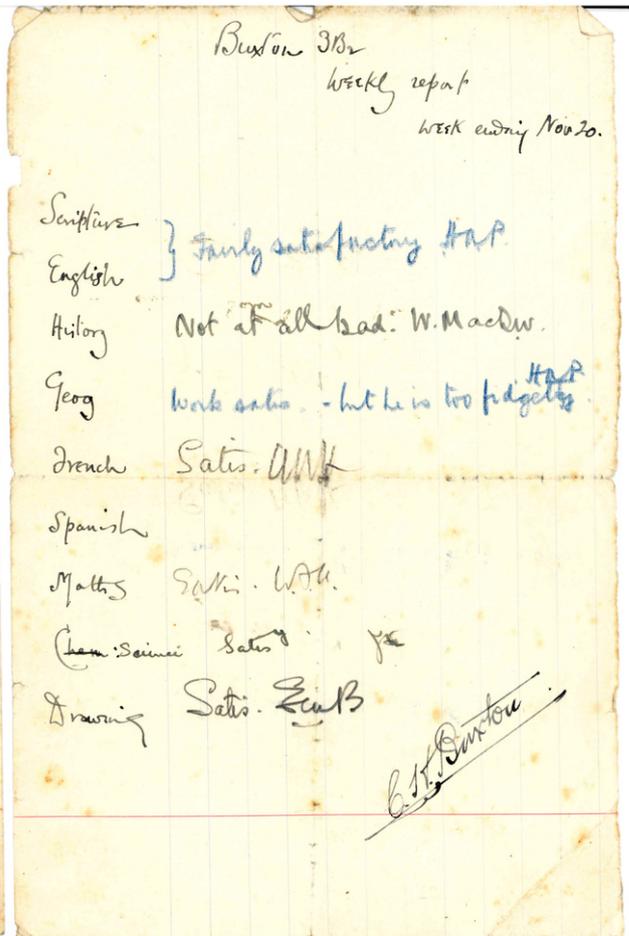
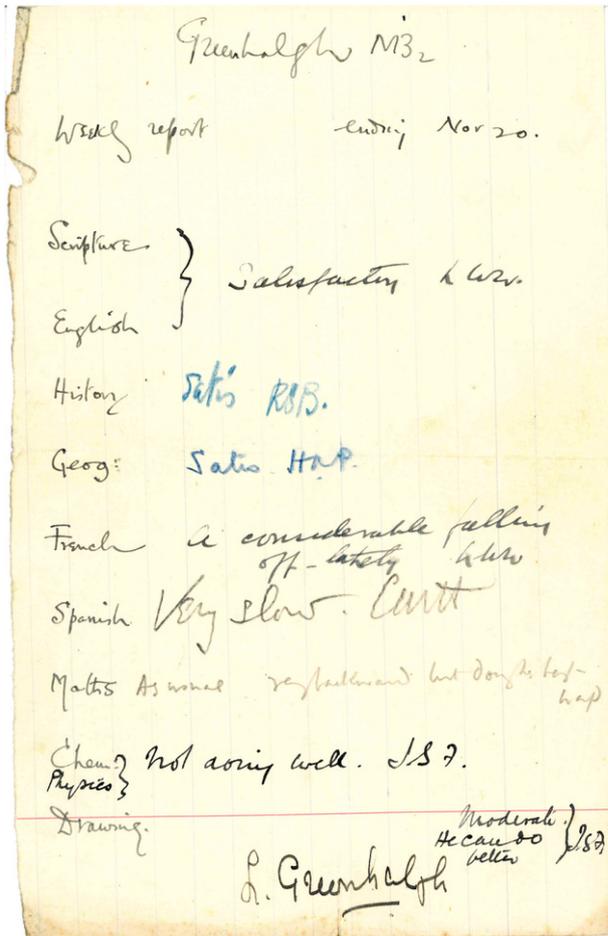
BY MS GUNTHER, HEAD LIBRARIAN/ARCHIVIST

Last month, hidden amongst some bits and bobs in a box in the archive, these two unprepossessing scraps of paper came to light. The ignominy of a Report Card.

Both boys, Greenhalgh and Buxton (note that no first names were used) came to the school in 1922 so were in their first and, for one of the two, only year at the school.

Robert Buxton arrived just before his 7th birthday in September 1922, so we could assume his weekly report was more to assess how he was coping, rather than to see if he was working hard enough. Mr Page, his teacher for Scripture, English and Geography found him too fidgety which seems hardly surprising but he survived the Prep and entered the main school in 1926, leaving the following year for Oakham School, probably as a boarder. His father was a manager at Hadden's Factory on Stamford St, owned by the textile magnet and philanthropist Harvey Hadden. Douglas Greenhalgh was 14 years old and the son of a chartered accountant.

As we can see, his work in French was already seeing a considerable falling off and his Spanish was slow. Managing a "Satisfactory" in most subjects, he was obviously "not doing well" in some important ones. The leaving age had risen from 12 to 14 in 1918 but despite this, there were exemptions allowing school children to leave their education at the age of 13, or even 12, if suitable jobs could be found for them. These exemptions were abolished in 1921, I would guess Douglas would rather have been elsewhere. His year at the High School may have been a last-ditch attempt by his parents to prepare him for employment. But the 1920s brought a deep economic depression in the UK and when his father signed the bottom of his report at the end of November he must have been wondering whether the £5 per term fees were worth the trouble. Douglas Greenhalgh left in December.



SCHOOL NEWS

We are pleased to announce the final total for the Non Uniform Day for the Ukraine Appeal was £3985.75, thank you to all those who contributed towards the cause!



Silver DofE

Y10 Silver DofE teams completed a fantastic practice expedition in the Peak District 6-8th May. Students showed grit and determination to complete 3 tough days walking in a variety of weather conditions. It was great to see their navigation and campcraft skills developing as they prepare for their assessed expedition in the summer. As always a big thankyou to all the staff who supported them during the weekend.

Holly's Science Success

Back in 2022 Holly H in Year 12 entered the 'Girls Three-Minute Science competition'. This competition is open to students from all over the world and the results were announced last week. Holly has been awarded third place for her video on nut allergies. Holly wins an individual prize for her excellent video that the school community can watch on the link [here](#).

If the community is interested in the other winning entries they too can be viewed on the link [here](#).

Swimming News

Eddie B in Year 7 has had a great winter of swimming. In February, he won five medals (one gold, one silver, three bronzes) at the Nottinghamshire County Championships. At the East Midlands Regional Championships in Corby in April, Eddie raced in five events, winning bronze medals in the 50m and 100m freestyle, and finishing in the top seven in the 400m freestyle and 200m individual medley. He is currently ranked 35th in GB for the 100m freestyle in his age group. Many congratulations to Eddie on his achievements, and good luck for the rest of the season!



Music Opportunity

In July 2022, the Youth Orchestra from our twin city of Karlsruhe in Germany, the Jugendorchester Stadt Karlsruhe (JOK), are visiting Nottingham. They will be rehearsing, performing and enjoying time with Nottingham's Robin Hood Youth Orchestra (RHYO). As part of a packed programme of activities, Nottingham Music Hub are inviting young musicians of Secondary School age from Nottingham City to be part of a fantastic massed performance - the Great Big Orchestra Project - with JOK and RHYO on Friday 22 July at Nottingham's Albert Hall. If your child is Grade 3+ standard and would like to be involved, please register your interest through this booking form by 27th May - [booking form](#)

Florence's First International Cheer Debut

Florence has recently competed in Florida at Summit, a prestige worldwide Cheerleading competition. Florence has been working hard for this competition and training hours with her EMCA Gravity team, around her school commitments. Florence should be extremely proud of this amazing performance and opportunity; this is biggest stage for cheerleading! We look forward to watching her journey as she strives for Worlds when she will be in year 12.



Y7 & 8 Food Club - Summer Term Activities

Our Year 7 & 8 food clubs have continued to be popular and inspire students with a wider interest in the subject to further develop their practical skills and learn more about our food and where it comes from. This term our activities have ranged from practical conversational Spanish Cooking Lessons with Mrs Pidgeon, making homemade samosas to celebrate Eid to preparing hot meals for the homeless and supporting the amazing work of The Guru Nanak Charity in Nottingham. We try promote the use of fresh, local and seasonal ingredients and like to cover a range of topics and multicultural celebrations and after half term we are looking forward to making our own homemade elderflower cordial with foraged elderflowers and delicious strawberry jams and preserves. If you are interested in joining our Year 7 or 8 Food club next term please pop down and sign up with Mrs Stafford or Mrs Turnbull.



Lillian Greenwood MP talk to PPE Society

Lilian Greenwood, MP for Nottingham South, recently spoke to the PPE Society before a question and answer session. Questions covered a wide range of topics touching on her current work as Labour's Deputy Chief Whip, her previous brief as Shadow Transport Secretary, her resignation from that position in protest at Jeremy Corbyn's leadership and a variety of current matters such as the recent local elections and the concept of levelling up. Many thanks to Lilian for her time and for the refreshing candour of her answers.

This was the last talk chaired by Year 13 student Joe (pictured with Lilian Greenwood) before beginning his study leave ahead of his A level exams. He has done a fantastic job, recruiting speakers, chairing talks and helping to organise the Junior PPE Club. Many thanks, Joe!



Clothes Collection

The Nottingham Refugee Forum have made an appeal for the following clothes

- Men's: T-shirts, Sweatshirts, Joggers, Hoodies, Coats, Jackets, Jeans/shorts, Trainers (sizes 7-10)
- Women: Tops, Leggings, Jackets (sizes 10-16), Trainers (sizes 7-10),

Bins for collection will be placed in Student Services or the Sixth form centre until the 27th May. Please donate!

Y8 Supporting The Guru Nanak

On Monday 9th May, a group of Year 8 students kindly volunteered to stay after school and continue the Food and Nutrition Departments ongoing outreach work to support the Guru Nanak Mission in cooking up hot nutritious meals for the homeless and vulnerable in Nottingham City Centre. Our students made over 50 portions of delicious and nutritious vegetarian chilli, which was later taken to the local Gurdwara and served up on Albert Street in Nottingham in the evening by Mrs Stafford and Mrs Marshall. A really big thank you to all the students involved for giving up their time for this very important local charity and we are really looking forward to our Y10 students taking their turn at some more charity cooking on Monday 6th June for both the Guru Nanak Mission and The Emmanuel House Hostel. It is fantastic to be involved in such valuable local charity projects and see both the school and students developing our own social responsibility to help people around us and show empathy and kindness to all. Please see Mrs Stafford if you are interested in getting involved in any future partnership projects with these charitable organisations who need our support now more than ever before.



A Cappella Concert

Congratulations to the performers in last Wednesday's A Cappella Concert. The standard of performance was very high and the audience were treated to renditions of songs covering a wide range of styles from our 'A Cappella' groups, including the Y9, Y10 and Y11 Barbershop groups, the Pop Choir, Cutting Harmony and the Senior Girls' A Cappella. It was a really enjoyable evening and special thanks to Tim Lole, Phil Wantling and Kat Yates for directing the groups.

NETBALL SHOOTING CLUB



ALL YEAR GROUPS WELCOME!

A FOCUSED CLUB TO PRACTISE AND CONDITION SHOOTING, THROUGH VARIOUS DRILLS

PLAYERS CAN WORK INDIVIDUALLY OR IN LED GROUPS

ALL GS/GA FROM TEAMS SHOULD ATTEND THIS CLUB

WEDNESDAY LUNCH TIME UNTIL 1:30PM IN THE SPORTS HALL



SCHOOL NEWS GALLERY



Y13 pay Mrs George a visit on their last day.. These Students were part of the first reception class when Lovell House first opened back in 2008.



Senior Games Athletics



Year 12 girls working hard in the gym.



Y9 Athletics Championship Winners



Y8 preparing food for The Guru Nanak



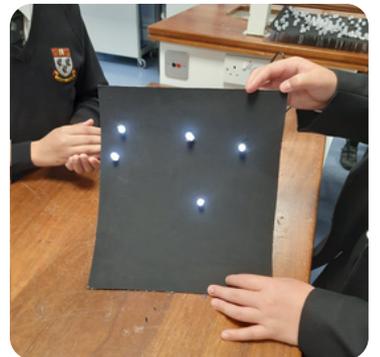
Mr Fear spent Wednesday morning at the Junior School



The Scouts exploring Nidderdale



U14 Girls Cricket



Astronomy Club wire up LEDs for their displays



Eid Celebrations in Food & Nutrition



Cooper's Bake Sale



We recently said goodbye to Sally Blythe from the library after 16 years at Nottingham High

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 18 June. 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



GIRLS ONLY MORNING GYM SESSIONS



FRIDAYS 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM

