



# THE MERLE

NOTTINGHAM HIGH SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



26TH MAY 2023 - ISSUE 34

## YEAR 12 GOLD DOFE EXPEDITION



## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

This first half-term has raced by and we are now well into exam season with more to come following the break. It has been great to have had the sun come out and let's hope that it stays that way for the coming week.

Work on our new Wellbeing Centre is continuing apace and the planning for all the activities that will run from there is continuing. We are developing our co-curricular programme even further for next year and the Wellbeing Centre will play an important part in that.

We have also been working on how we will embed the new School Values that I launched at Speech Day in September. In doing this Mrs Simpson and I have been working with the new Student Leadership Team who have come up with many positive suggestions to ensure that there is a genuine student voice at the heart of this project. We are also doing some further work on Individuality and how we can ensure that every child is cared for as an individual and their individual needs met across the full range of school activity.

There is much to look forward to in the second half of term and do use the links below to book in to see the play and also to book for the summer music festival. We will also be celebrating 150 years of cricket in the School and it has been great in recent weeks to see both the girls' and boys' teams being successful.

I hope that you all enjoy the weekend and I look forward to seeing many of you at our forthcoming events.

Kevin Fear (Headmaster)

## WHAT'S INSIDE

[click on the links below](#)

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

[page 2](#)

### YEAR GROUP UPDATES

[page 3](#)

### FEATURE ARTICLE

[page 4](#)

### SCHOOL NEWS & GALLERY

[page 5-11](#)

### CAREERS UPDATE

[page 12](#)

### SUPPORT AND ADVICE

[page 13](#)

### PARENT NOTICES

[page 14](#)

### FEATURED VIDEO

[page 15](#)

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				26 <b>TODAY</b> Y10 BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP  <b>LAST DAY OF HALF TERM (ENDS 4PM)</b>
29 <b>BANK HOLIDAY</b> DOFE GOLD CANOE FINAL RETURN	30	31 <b>HALF TERM</b> DOFE GOLD SNOWDONIA LEAVE	1	2  DOFE GOLD SNOWDONIA RETURN SUNDAY 4TH JUNE
5  SCHOOL EXAMS START	6	7	8  EXAMS END (Y7 AND Y8)	9  EXAMS END (Y9) Y8 CREATIVE DAY Y7 RESIDENTIAL
12  DRAMA A LEVEL PRACTICAL PREP DAY	13	14	15  DRAMA GCSE AND A LEVEL PRACTICAL 6:30PM-8:00PM	16  FOUNDERS DAY REHEARSAL 2PM-4PM  <b>FOUNDERS DAY 17TH JUNE</b>
19  ART EXHIBITION	20  LAST GCSE EXAM	21  TEATIME CONCERT 5PM  CHEMISTRY CAMBRIDGE CHALLENGE	22	23  LEAVERS BBQ/ ART EXHIBITION  Y12 CRANEDALE LEAVES

Please see our School Website for the most up to date information via our online calendar [here](#)

## Term Dates 2022/23

The term dates for 2022/2023 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 had an informative session on Monday with Mr Glarvey on revision techniques and top tips for their revision. We hope that they have started their revision and are making time for plenty of breaks, sleep, relaxation and time outside. We have spoken to them multiple times about the importance of this over the half-term break so that they don't exhaust themselves by locking themselves up all day revising. I've also told them they can't use revision as an excuse for not helping out with their usual chores around the house as the break away from their books will do them good!

7C and 7D were excellent ambassadors for the school yesterday at our second Year 5 taster day. They were excellent chaperones for the Year 5 students and thank you to those who also led fantastic tours for prospective parents.

Please don't forget to complete consent forms for Mount Cook if you have not already done so! We hope that Year 7 are getting excited!



## Head of Year 8 - Dr Matthew Lakin

The Year 8s are beginning their preparations for their end-of-year exams which begin on Monday 5th and finish on Thursday 8th June. Teachers are talking to students in lessons about how to prepare, and they have been given clear guidance on how the exams work, how to revise and 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.

I would like to congratulate the following on receiving the most highest number of distinctions in Y8 since the beginning of the Summer Term:

Well done to Tom C (17) , Grace B (15), Eva M (13), and Arvind R (13). Good luck Y8 in your end of year exams.



## Head of Year 9 - Mr Simon Barr Smith

Over the last two weeks Year 9 have been busy preparing for their upcoming end of year exams with many of them having completed listening exams for languages in the last few days. This has not stopped them from participating in their co-curricular activities and clubs. Indeed, many of them have taken part in an Art workshop and we have enjoyed listening to their feedback.

Once the exams are completed they have much to look forward to, including their 'One Day Film School' and 'The Year 9 Oscar's Ceremony'. We will be contacting parents with the details in due course.

Finally, although exams can be a stressful time for students, we would like to remind them about the importance of good sleep and balancing their study sessions with relaxing/enjoyable activities.

We hope you all have a wonderful break.



## Head of Year 10 - Mr Paul Allison

It has been another busy couple of weeks for Year 10 students as we wind down for half term. We spent some time on Monday discussing the transition into Year 11 and where they will be located in school as a year group. We also talked about talking the workload as a Year 11 student and planning ahead for summer 2024 examinations.

This term, Year 10 have continued with their PSHE lessons and have engaged with the topic of 'Islam in Britain' the lessons focused on key figures in society and how the muslim faith is embraced in this country.

Year 10 also sat through a presentation from the charity 'First Steps' who talked about body image, social media and genetics.

Finally, it has also been a busy few weeks for the Year 10 sports teams. The Year 10 Girls Cricket team have enjoyed a winning start to the season, they have won all of their matches so far.

The Year 10 Boys Athletics team have qualified for the Midlands Final in Grantham after half term. This is a national competition with over 250 schools entering the competition this year.

I wish all the students a restful half term break and to enjoy the sunshine.



## Head of Year 11-13 - Mr David Gillett

It has been great to see how mature and resilient the Year 11 and 13 students have been with the first two weeks of GCSE and A level exams. Well done so far and remember that your teachers and all of us up in the Sixth Form Centre are available for last-minute advice if you need it. Congratulations go to Justin D in Year 12 who has been selected to play for the Under 18 England Ice Hockey team. Good luck to all the Gold Duke of Edinburgh students who are out on expedition over half term and well done to all the EPQ students who have finally completed their presentations and projects.





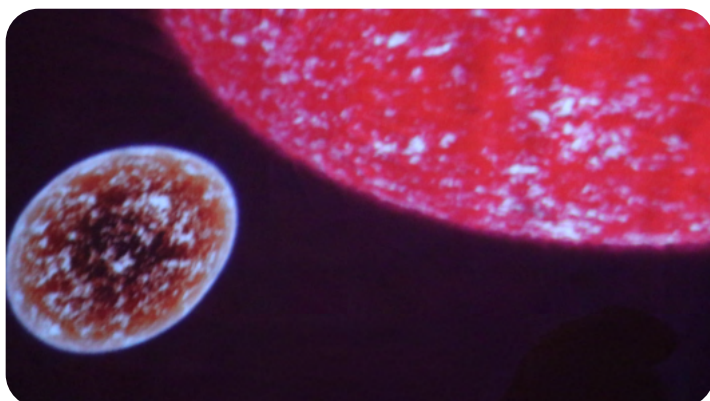
## PLANETARIUM



Year 5 Taster Day

We were lucky enough to have the [Wonderdome Planetarium](#) visit us yesterday. They set up in the Large Lecture Theatre and lots of different groups of students had the opportunity to visit and learn more about space and astronomy. They projected information about space onto the surrounding dome while giving the students an informative talk about what it was they were watching. Topics covered went from the largest star in the universe that we know of, to what life is like on the International Space Station.

The Astronomy Club was the reason we invited the Planetarium into school, and they all dove in to learning more about the universe. This was a more advanced session than the others, and they covered some in-depth topics in the time allocated. It gave the students a new perspective on astronomy as they could visualise it in a different way than they had previously been able to.



Wonderdome Planetarium

The Astronomy Club impressed the visiting speaker with their knowledge, and they were able to have a discussion where ideas and knowledge was shared.

The visit coincided with one of our Year 5 Taster Days. The visiting pupils took part in the planetarium, and learnt lots of new things about space, astronomy and astrology. This was a great experience, and they asked lots of inquisitive and thoughtful questions. Some groups were especially interested in the astrological signs that were pointed out to them in the night sky, and all the groups had the chance to discover different constellations such as Orion's Belt, Ursa Major and Ursa Minor.



Local Primary Schools visiting the Planetarium

Several local primary schools were also invited to come in to school to see the planetarium. We hope that this was a great day out for them, and that they learnt a lot!

Thank you to Wonderdome Planetarium for providing so much insight, education and entertainment during their visit.

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Student Services

### 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 left overnight will be moved to the cage. Please note the cage will regularly be cleared and remaining kits treated as lost property.
- 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 Student Reception. If your child has lost an item, please ask them to check with us or phone us on 0115 845 2235.

## The Waverley

Keep up to date with The Waverley (Infant and Junior School Newsletter) [here](#).

## Term Dates

Term Dates for 2024/25 Academic Year are now live on our [website](#).

## 2023 Summer Music Festival

This is an informal event with a relaxed, festival vibe to showcase many of our junior and senior music ensembles in an end of year musical celebration. You are welcome to attend the festival and enjoy the music or food is available to purchase but must be pre-booked.

Please click [here](#) to reserve your tickets on Trybooking.



## Reception 2024 Nature Morning



Are you or someone you know looking for a school for Reception in September 2024?

We are hosting a Nature Morning on Friday 9th June for prospective Reception 2024 pupils.

Come along for lots of outdoor fun and games for the children, and to learn more about coming to school at Lovell House.

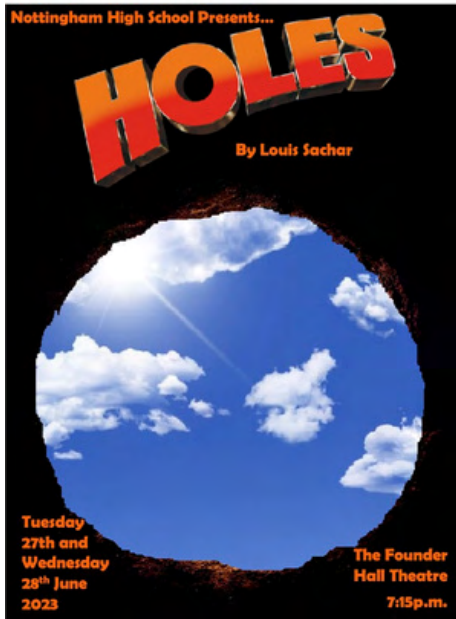
Email [admissions@nottinghamhigh.co.uk](mailto:admissions@nottinghamhigh.co.uk) to book your child's place!

# SCHOOL NEWS

## 2023 Lower School Production

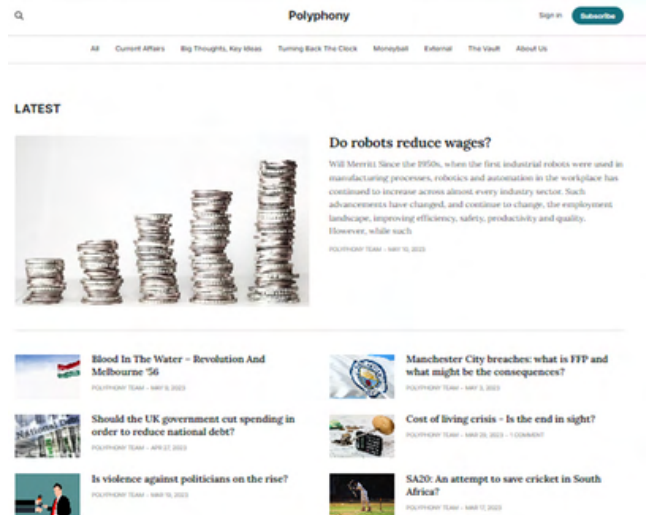
Book your tickets now for the 2023 Lower School Production of *Holes* by Louis Sachar.

Click [here!](#)



## Polyphony

Click [here](#) for the Polyphony website, a student-led Economics and Politics website. Three of our Sixth Form students run the website, but many other students contribute. Remember to subscribe!



## Music Achievement

Will H (Year 11) performed Liszt's Liebestraum No. 3 on the piano at the Mansfield Palace Theatre last weekend. Following his performance, he was awarded the Junior John Ogdon Instrumental Scholarship. The scholarship awards bursaries to music students with exceptional technical ability to further their music education.

John Ogdon, who was born in Mansfield Woodhouse in 1937, was the premier classical pianist of his generation.

Will will also be performing at the Mansfield Choral Society's Summer Concert on Saturday 1st July.

Congratulations Will!





# SCHOOL NEWS

## News from the Development Office

We were delighted to hear from a group of Old Nottinghamians earlier on in the week. They left the School in 1989 (over 30 years ago). Here is what they had to say:

"Four aging school friends - Rupert Dixon, Andrew Herberts, Nick Lee and Roger Marshall - in an attempt to delay total decrepitude have taken on the challenge of cycling the length of Portugal, following the iconic 750km long N2 highway (from North to South as that is downhill).

Those of you that know us, will know that we are contending with a variety of infirmities, not all purely age related. This will be a real physical challenge for us, but we refuse to let that spoil the enjoyment of such a wonderful country.

In an effort to give us focus and some meaning to the trip, we decided to offer you both the chance to laugh at our foolishness and the excuse to donate to the fantastic cause that is the [My Name'5 Doddie Foundation](#). Everything you give goes straight to the Foundation."



We wish them luck and look forward to featuring their full story in a future edition of our ON magazine.

Our regular communication is produced each July and December.

If you would like to feature in a future publication please contact [development@nottinghamhigh.co.uk](mailto:development@nottinghamhigh.co.uk)

## ON Visit

### Joseph McNamara ON 2008-2018

Joe has recently completed his officer training at Sandhurst and came back to give a talk to Year 10 CCF about his experience in the army.

His talk was very informative and it was great for the CCF members to see where they could be in a few years time.

Joe was a keen member of CCF during his time at Nottingham High School, helping to establish the drummers you may recognise from Inspection Day.



# SCHOOL NEWS

## MP Visit

### Ruth Edwards, Conservative MP for Rushcliffe

Ruth Edwards MP, Assistant Whip, came to Nottingham High School this week to give a talk about her role in government and answer any questions the students may have.

She gave a very informative talk and handed out bills currently being discussed in Parliament. The students were confident to challenge Ruth on many policies through their questioning on issues from the Rwanda migration policy to the cost of living crisis.



## Manchester Half Marathon

Will M and Otto BG ran the Manchester Half Marathon on Sunday for their House Charities. They did really well and massively surpassed their initial fundraising goals of £250.

You can still donate! Will is fundraising for [Operation Orphan](#) and Otto is fundraising for [Refugee Roots](#).



## Coopers Bake Sale

Coopers House have been raising money for the Rosie May Foundation this week at a lunchtime bake sale. Thank you to everyone who bought a cake, as you helped to raise £450!





# SCHOOL NEWS

## Year 10 Geography Field Visit

Year 10 Geographers had a great time exploring the Holderness Coastline as part of their GCSE studies. It was a beautiful day to visit Flamborough Head. We all enjoyed exploring the coastal features formed in the chalk cliffs, with many students spending time in the caves, geos and arches that are numerous in this region.



The second stop saw the all-important data being collected on beach profiles and changing sediment size and shape. The final stop was Hornsea where we looked at the various types of coastal management that has been put in place along the coastline. Well done to all the students who were a pleasure to be with throughout the day.

Mr Brown

## Music Notes

### Community Choir for Founders Day

#### Invitation to Parents

I'd like to invite parents to perform as part of a massed choir in our annual Founders Day Service on Saturday 17th June. This takes place in St. Mary's Church, Lace Market, starting at 11am. No singing experience is required! If you fancy having a go but haven't sung in a choir for a while (or ever), please do come along. The main anthem is 'Gloria', by John Rutter which you can find [here](#).

I will be running rehearsals on the following dates – come to whatever you are able to: -

Wednesday 7th June: 4.15 – 5.30pm in the Recital Hall

Thursday 15th June: 4.15 – 5.30pm in the Recital Hall

Friday 16th June: 2 – 3.30pm in the Recital Hall (with students)

Saturday 17th June: 9am at St. Mary's Church

If you would like to take part please complete the [form](#).

Mrs Soulsby, Director of Music

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Rowing Competition

On Saturday 13th May 2023, Emily B (Y12) competed in a double scull at the six lanes (2000 m) Nottingham City Regatta at the National Watersports Centre, Holme Pierrepont and as a winner of her race received a specially struck medal to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III. This weekend (Sunday 28th May) she will race at the National Schools Regatta at Eton Dorney racing against 36 fastest double scull boats in the country. Fingers crossed!

Finally Emily was selected to race at Henley Women's Regatta in June.



## Powerlifting Competition

Harry M (Y11) competed in his first powerlifting competition on Sunday 21st May. He was hoping to qualify for the British Championships. Harry's lifts meant he exceeded expectations, winning on the day whilst qualifying for the European and Commonwealth Championships on June 30th! Thanks to Mr Drummond for facilitating the use of the gym throughout Harry's journey.



## NHS Cricket Softball Festival

On the 13th May, the Sport Department held a Girls Softball Cricket Festival, which our U12 A and B teams both participated in. All the cricketers not only played extremely well, but showed lots of improvement throughout the day.

Overall, the U12B Team came 2nd in the Plate and the U12A Team were the overall cup winners. Each team was also awarded with a Player of the Tournament and Most Improved Player. Well done to everyone involved in such a successful day!

Year 8 girls also took part in a softball cricket festival, the day was great success. At the festival there were 6 teams from 4 schools. The A team did well and won the plate finishing on a total of 507 from the 2 matches they played in order to win the plate. The B marginally lost out but still some fantastic cricket being played across the board. Overall the girls really developed their batting and fielding skills vital for cricket. Let's see how these help the girls across the season with plenty more matches coming up.





# SCHOOL NEWS GALLERY



North East Athletics Championships



Y10 Holderness Trip



Wonderdome Planetarium



Students receiving their Gold DofE



Emily B at the double scull



Y12 Gold Canoe Expedition



U12A Boys Cricket team



Otto and Will's half marathon. You can still donate!



U12A Girls Cricket team




# Careers Update - May 2023

This week I want to share a selection of work experience programmes, volunteering roles, short courses and exhibitions that might inspire you this summer. There are all kinds of opportunities around, with many companies actively recruiting young people through online courses with progression to in-person schemes for the best performers.

Click the images for more information about each scheme.

**Rebecca Auterson, Head of Careers**



**Exhibition**

**Pilot Careers Live - the best place to explore your options for becoming a Pilot!**  
8 July, Manchester Airport



Volunteering opportunities to protect, restore and improve the Nottinghamshire countryside.



**Nottinghamshire County Council**

**Creative Summer Courses for 15-17yr olds**



Animation  
Architecture  
Creative Writing  
Fashion  
Game Design  
Graphic Design  
Product Design  
TV Presenting




**FANTASY WINGS**

**Age 13+? Want to be a Pilot?**  
Where dreams take off and opportunity lands

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

WEx programme



**EY** Building a better working world

In Year 12 and considering an apprenticeship in Professional Services? Summer Work Experience Programme now open for applications.



**smallpeice**  
Dare to imagine

**STEM courses**

NOW OPEN FOR BOOKING!

**Biomedical Engineering**  
Future Cities  
Micro Computing  
Aerospace Engineering  
Electronics & Robotics

**Structural Engineering**  
Future of Transport  
Explore Engineering  
Human Habitat on Mars  
Space Science

[www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk](http://www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk)



**SKILLS**  
WORK EXPERIENCE

POWERED BY  
 **GetMyFirstJob**

**Age 16+? Want a career in TV?**



WEx programme

**Experience life in the creative industry**  
Pitch a new show idea, find clips to go viral on social media and even make recommendations for the Christmas Day schedule. On this programme you'll get a taste for what it takes to get a TV show to our screens.

# SUPPORT AND ADVICE

It is important that you feel able to talk about things that are troubling you. Be kind to your fellow students always.

## **Child Bereavement UK**

Child Bereavement UK provides support to families grieving the loss of a child, and advice for professionals working with bereaved families.

**01494 568900**

**[childbereavement.org.uk](http://childbereavement.org.uk)**

## **ChildLine**

When you lose someone, there's no right or wrong way to feel. Everyone experiences loss or bereavement differently. But you don't have to cope on your own. ChildLine are always here for you.

**0800 1111**

**[childline.org.uk](http://childline.org.uk)**

## **Cruse Bereavement Care**

Cruse promotes the wellbeing of bereaved people and enables anyone bereaved by death to understand their grief and cope with their loss. Cruse provides support and offers information, advice, education and training services.

**[cruse.org.uk](http://cruse.org.uk)**

## **Samaritans**

Samaritans provides support day or night, 365 days a year.

Whatever you're facing, samaritans are there to listen.

**116 123**

**[samaritans.org](http://samaritans.org)**

## **Young Minds**

Whether you want to understand more about how you're feeling or you want to support someone who's struggling, Young Minds can help.

**0808 8025544**

**[youngminds.org.uk](http://youngminds.org.uk)**

## **Winston's Wish**

Winston's Wish has specialist teams available to provide emotional and practical bereavement support services to children and young people up to the age of 25, their families and those who care for them.

**08452 030405**

**[winstonswish.org.uk](http://winstonswish.org.uk)**



# 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 £1,803.70 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 [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!

### Pick Up and Drop Off

Parents, please be considerate to our neighbours during collection and drop off at Valley Road.

### Update your Information

Should you need to update any of your information that we hold on record, please email our Data Manager at [brearley.za@nottinghamhigh.co.uk](mailto:brearley.za@nottinghamhigh.co.uk).

**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

