



# THE MERLE

NOTTINGHAM HIGH SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



7TH JULY 2023 - ISSUE 36

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## HEADMASTER'S PRIZES 2023

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

We have had a really busy end to the term but it has been wonderful to see so many of you at the production of 'Holes', at the Headmaster's Prizes ceremony and at last night's fantastic Summer Music Festival. Last night's event brought together so many in our school community for a relaxed and happy evening of music and made for a lovely end to our school year.

This year though was tinged with great sadness following the death of our Year 13 student, Hector. A number of his friends are embarking on a major fundraising effort which you can read about below and I urge as many of you as possible to support their efforts via their JustGiving site, if you possibly can. We planted a tree in Hector's memory at the Year 13 Leavers' Barbeque and his friends have already raised a sizeable sum, but it would be great if we could all pull together to push this total even higher.

I wish all those travelling on school trips over the summer all the very best and hope that all involved will be outstanding ambassadors for the School. This summer sees our first major sports tours since the pandemic and it is great to see these happening again.

On a personal note this will be a busy summer with my son Adam graduating and then later in the same week my daughter Emma getting married. I am very much looking forward to both of these events as well as a break away in Norfolk before heading back to School for the A Level and GCSE results period. I wish all of you a very good summer. Thank you to each and every one of our students and staff for all that they have done to make this another hugely successful year and thank you to you all as parents for all the support that you give us here at the School. It really is appreciated.

Kevin Fear (Headmaster)

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				7 <b>TODAY</b> <b>LAST DAY OF</b> <b>TERM</b>
10 ←	11 <b>SCHOOL CLOSED FOR SUMMER HOLIDAYS</b>	12	13	14 _____
	<b>SUPPORT STAFF ARE AVAILABLE TO CONTACT THROUGHOUT THE HOLIDAYS</b>			
17 _____	18 <b>PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING KEY DATES</b>	19	20	21 _____
	<b>GCSE RESULTS DAY: 17TH AUGUST</b>			
	<b>A LEVEL RESULTS DAY: 24TH AUGUST</b>			
24 _____	25	26	27	28
_____				
31 _____	1	2	3	4 _____
_____ →				

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



Well done to Year 7 for completing their first year at the High School. It has been a very busy last few weeks with trips to the Civil War Museum in Newark, Attenborough Nature Reserve and Harvey Hadden for Sports Day. We hope that they all enjoyed these and it was lovely to see many of them take part in the various events at Sports Day with enthusiasm and excellent effort. We also thoroughly enjoyed seeing those involved in the Lower School Production of Holes and the Summer Music Festival. Well done to all of those students who received a Headmaster's Prize and/or the High School Award. In our final Year 7 assembly of the year we talked about our highlights of the year, participation, achievements and we also enjoyed looking at photos from the year. Well done to Year 7 for achieving a grand total of 7698 distinctions this year and a special mention to Hattie S, Sadaqat, Jai, Samia, Dimithi, Sophie and Charlotte for achieving over 100 distinctions. Thank you to Mr Morgan, Dr Rowley, Mr Pinkett, Mrs Vincent and Miss Hird for being fantastic form teachers this year and a special thank you to Mrs Andrews for being an excellent Assistant Head of Year 7 and for all that she has done with Year 7 for the last 4 years. She steps down as Assistant Head of Year 7 this year so that she can focus on her wider role as PSHE co-ordinator and we will really miss her as part of Year 7. We hope that Year 7 have a fantastic summer and come back refreshed and ready to move up into Year 8.

## Head of Year 8 - Dr Matthew Lakin




As we approach the end of the academic year, Miss Davis and I would like to thank the Y8s for being such a good-spirited, characterful, and accomplished year group. The year has been full of triumphs and successes: we are lucky to have such talented year group, each achieving academic, athletic, and/or musical accolades. Credit to the following students for achieving the highest number of distinctions this year:

- Tom C (8C) with 114 distinctions
- Grace B (8D) with 107 distinctions
- Charlene G (8E) with 103 distinctions
- Marcus J-K(8A) with 103 distinctions
- Eva M (8C) with 100 distinctions
- Rumaysah I (8C) with 121 distinctions


A special congratulations to Zoe R and Eleanor Rs, they have both been awarded the highest-level Gold Award in the Teen Tech Awards competition. Inspired by the theme of future transport, they worked on a "Flying Cars" project during STEAM club and in their own time, discussing ideas with Andy Wall from PAL-V and giving a presentation as part of the Nottingham Festival of Science and Curiosity. Well done to the entire year. All the best – good luck in Year 9.

## Head of Year 9 - Mr Simon Barr Smith



As the academic year draws to a close, Mrs Marquez-Godoy and I would like to thank the Y9s for all the progress they have made this year and though it has not always been easy, the year has been filled with their many successes both in and out of the classroom. In this past fortnight, we saw them take part in the school production of Holes, the Summer Festival, Sports Day, Activities Day and the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition. This is alongside all of their sporting events in athletics and cricket, as well as keeping on top of their academic responsibilities. It really has been a very busy but remarkable year. To celebrate their successes, we hosted our very own 'Oscars' where we watched their films from their creative day and awarded several 'Oscars'. The big winner of the night was 'Classified Information' taking home Best Picture. More importantly, we wanted to recognise all of what they have done and we put together a reel with highlights from this year. We also wanted to recognise those students who show kindness and empathy to their peers with the 'Good Egg Award' voted by students in each form. Well done to Charles D (9A), Shane E (9B), Maya S (9C), Lucy M (9D) and Saharsh M (9D). Finally, we wish all of the Year 9s a very well deserved break.

## Head of Year 10 - Mr Paul Allison



It was time to celebrate Year 10s achievements this term with the annual prize giving assembly. The following students were awarded prizes for the following categories.

Most likely to be Prime Minister: Nathan S P

Most likely to be an entrepreneurial millionaire: Charlie W

Most likely to win an Olympic Gold medal: Henna Q

Most likely to win an award for architectural design: Mysha R

Most likely to appear in a West End production: George T

Most likely to be knighted for services to the community: Anna R

Most likely to travel to the moon: Holly P

Most likely to become a fashion icon: Myal A

Most likely to become a famous influencer: Angel B

Most likely to win a Nobel prize: Mateusz M

Most likely to save the planet: Anya B

### Ambassadors:

Table Tennis – Michael S G, Mathew M, Aqil I

Computer Club – Anya B, Imogen B, Lisa M

Lovell House – Emily V, Holly P

Debating Club – Nathan S P

Languages – Harry S, Mysha R

Model United Nations – Anya B

10D won the most distinctions.


### Total of 3546

• Josh Z 65

• Marcus M 58

• Anika K 57

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



We've finally reached the end of the exam period and academic year and look forward to catching up with our Y11 and Y13 students on their results days in August. They've certainly impressed us with their hard work and positive attitude towards their exams. It was lovely to celebrate with the Y11s at Goosedale for their Prom and see them all dressed up and enjoying themselves. We do have to question their taste in music – when Venga Bus was requested! Good luck to all students leaving this weekend on the netball and rugby tours – enjoy Barbados and Canada. To everyone else have a fantastic summer and a well earned rest.

# A REFLECTION ON 2022/23

THE SUNDAY TIMES

**SCHOOLS GUIDE 2023**

**INDEPENDENT SECONDARY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR IN THE EAST MIDLANDS**



### Term Dates

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

### The Waverley

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

### Holes

On Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th June, our fantastic cast of 'Holes' delighted two sell-out audiences in the Founder Hall Theatre for 2023's Lower School Production. A cast and crew of 51 students in Years 7-10 have been working hard since February to perfect their creative retelling of Louis Sachar's classic tale. Stanley Yelnats IV (cursed because of his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather) has been unjustly sent to a youth detention centre, Camp Green Lake and he tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime, punishment and redemption. The Year 10 performing in their final Lower School Production were George T (Stanley), Zak B (Mr Sir), Daisy P (Armpit) and Scarlett B (Squid), but for 33 students, it was the first time taking to the Founder Hall stage and they certainly did themselves proud. An upbeat and memorable playlist accompanied the action, together with superb costume and set design thanks to Tregi Worsley and the Art Department.



### Music Success

A huge congratulations to Charles D, 9A, for passing his grade 8 piano with merit - what a fantastic achievement!

### Food and Nutrition News

It's been another action-packed summer term in Food and Nutrition with a whole host of additional Foodie related activities going on. Year 8 students celebrated their end of exams with a fantastic day of Artisan Bakery and Chocolates with Amelia Wells from The Artisan School of Food. This term it was Year 10 students turn to step up to the mark and cook 75 portions of delicious vegetarian chilli for The Guru Nanak Mission. This was then served up later in the evening to the homeless in Nottingham City Centre by our Community Action students. Our Food Club students were also treated to a samosa and chapatti masterclass by Preeti Mills from the Mango Ginger Cookery School. Our final event of the term was last week's Activity Day when Year 7 and 8 students made their own personalised pizzas for lunch and then enjoyed burning off the calories with our Smoothie Bike Challenge. Many thanks to Jill Carter and her amazing team of helpers from Pulp Friction Community Project who ensured a fun and action-packed day for all. We really look forward to working with Gill again next year with [Pulpfriction](#) a Nottingham based Community Project who employ young people with Learning Disabilities and Autism giving them an opportunity to get into work and develop their social, independence and work-readiness skills.



### RAF Activities Day 2023

The RAF section had a great day at Coventry Airport - the team there put on an interesting and exciting package for us that included: a tour of the heritage centre where some rare and unique aircraft are being restored; a visit to the flying school; an explanation of the role of the maintenance crew, which included the opportunity to sit in some aircraft and manipulate their controls; a chat with the air ambulance paramedic and pilot and a look around the helicopter itself; a tour of the fire rescue department, which included having a go on the water hoses; and an in-depth look at air traffic control and how the runway is managed. The air ambulance received a call during our visit so, thrillingly, we were able to see the crew prepare and take off in under two minutes! Everyone who spoke to us came across so well, with passion and clear skill in what they do. The cadets absolutely loved it! - Flt Lt Duckett



### Computer Science - Apps for Good!

In Computer Science Year 9 have been doing a project with Apps for Good, where they have come up with ideas for an App that could benefit a group of people in some way. They have designed and built their apps, then finally, presented them to an external expert last week.

Benedict and Alfie were chosen as the winners, with their app 'Melody recall' which is designed to help people with dementia through music. The expert thought their idea has real value and potential to work with other platforms. Well done Benedict and Alfie!



### Chess ECF U19 National School Finals

The Finals of the ECF National Schools Championship was held on our doorstep this year at the Kings Meadow Campus, Nottingham. So it was particularly good to reach this year's final.

The team were: Armaan G, Richard L, Senith G, James B, Ayaan Q, Dean S, Zayan B.

The team differed from the qualifying rounds due to players having other commitments, however it gave some of our younger players valuable experience to play in this prestigious tournament.

Our ranking was 21st out of the twenty six teams in the final. We lost our first match to the 8th ranked team. To win our second round match was a tremendous result under the circumstances.

We finished the day winning one and losing two of our three matches. The team were without Armaan G for the first three rounds. This meant our players had to play up the order and so had more difficult opponents.

The fourth round tie was a close encounter but the school lost 2.5 - 3.5. Senith had a good win in a very exciting ending where both players only had seconds left on their clocks after playing for over an hour and forty minutes.

The final round match was a 3-3 draw.

Senith should improve his rating with his performance in the competition. He won four out of the five rounds. A tremendous achievement especially as two of those wins were on board two.

After our final match we finished the competition with 3 points and in 24th place. We were presented with a DGT chess clock for reaching the ECF National finals.

Full results can be found here

<https://chess-results.com/tnr786558.aspx?lan=1&art=2&rd=1>

**Please show your support for the suicide prevention charity,  
Hector's House, in memory of Hector Marchant**

**We are raising money for**



Hector Marchant, our beloved friend, sadly took his own life in 2022. We have wanted to do something to try and make a difference ever since, we wanted to do something funny and engaging as he brought nothing to the world but laughter.

We are going to be completing a number of challenges for certain funding milestones, the money will be going towards a charity ironically named Hector's House - a charity set up working on suicide prevention after Hector Stringer took his own life at the age of 18.

The challenges will aim to be fun and entertaining, we will strive to showcase them on our Instagram page for all to laugh at and enjoy as well as to **raise as much money** as possible for this fantastic charity.



**You can donate via the [JustGiving page](#).**

### Wellbeing Centre - Journalism Club

Many of us will have seen the construction going on surrounding the White House over the past few weeks. This is in anticipation of a new Wellbeing Centre to support students in a number of ways.

Wellbeing is particularly important in school years as we navigate through the many changes and difficulties that come with growing up. Additionally, the ever increasing prevalence of social media in our lives brings about its own issues and pressures as we begin to see certain standards and trends influencing our mental health. Everyone has times when they don't feel 100% and the hope is that the wellbeing centre can support students in all aspects of their school career as they transition into adulthood.

To find out more about the wellbeing centre, we spoke to Miss Gritti about the plans for the centre and here's what we gathered.

The SMT has been working really hard to make it an enjoyable space for all students, and it will hopefully open in October 2023, but it is still in the process of being built. It is expected that many staff will be situated there to help out students, including: Mrs Smith, Mr Glarvey, the school counsellor, school nurse, and a wellbeing centre administrator. It will be available to students from all years, as well as infant and junior school students and is open throughout, so students are welcome at any time.

This new wellbeing centre is expected to be a completely different space to everywhere else in the school with the aim to help students in a number of ways. There will be an oasis room, where students can have quiet time to relax and a spirituality space for students to reflect and pray. The garden has sensory elements and there will be a peaceful place, yoga studio and mindfulness space. The wellbeing centre is seen as the next step for the school's wellbeing strategy however, it's not a place that is just dedicated to mental health; there will be physical rehabilitation spaces and physio for students as well. Many school clubs like chess club will be relocated there. Certain stigmas surrounding dedicated spaces for mental health have also been considered; however with the wide range of activities and people who will be in the centre, the hope is that every single student will have a reason to go there at any time.





Thank you for all those who have shown interest in the below scheme. We have been informed by Tram Link that the discount codes have not been generated yet but will be **coming soon!** We will circulate the discount codes as soon as we receive them.

## Pay less for the school express!

Get *unlimited tram travel* for your child from September to July for just **54p\* a day!**



## We've teamed up with your school to make tram travel even more affordable for families.

With a **Discounted U19 Academic Pass**, your child can ride and save on any tram, on school days and during evenings, weekends and holidays. Giving them a fast, safe, reliable, and more affordable way to get to school.

Get out and about around Nottingham seven days a week, all for only 54p\* a day!

- Save £100 off the standard price of an **U19 Academic Pass** with a special discount code from your school – giving your child 11 months of unlimited tram travel for £180. All they need is a smartphone and the NetGo! App.
- Support your child to use the tram responsibly – with a **U19 Academic Pass** they can enjoy unlimited tram travel at any time, with no fares or fines to worry about.
- Help your school to make travel cleaner and greener for everyone – all our trams are powered by renewable energy.
- Trams run from every 7 minutes Monday-Saturday (and from every 10 minutes on Sunday).
- We serve all major locations across the city, including your child's school, and are proud of our fast, efficient, safe and green service.

**Interested? Find out more from your school and make sure you don't miss out on your special discount code.**

**For a smarter way to travel, take the tram.**

Pass valid from 1 September 2023 to 31 July 2024.  
\*U19 academic ticket is £280, with discount the saving is £100, making the pass £180.  
£180 over 335 days (1 September 2023 to 31 July 2024) is 54p.

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### MFL- Translation Talk

I recently attended a talk by David French who is a translator from Polish to English he mainly works on translating books and TV series. David is an ON who studied psychology at university. When he finished university, he decided to pursue another career and did an A-level in Polish. This was driven by his desire to reconnect his with his Polish roots and to be able to communicate with his aunt who spoke no English. This included spending five years living in Poland where he became fluent. Following this, he has achieved a lot of success as a translator including translating the text of the Witcher from Polish into English. This book was subsequently turned into a series by Netflix. Staying in the world of television and entertainment David has recently undertaken a screenwriter's course so maybe we will hear his name in that context soon. I found his talk particularly interesting because I had never thought that translation was a creative career. David told us how as a translator his role was sometimes to reinterpret the words of the original author to fit with the language that it was being translated into. He also told us that we might not necessarily find a career that we love whilst at school or at university and we should stay open to finding opportunities and careers later in life. I found the whole talk very interesting as it showed me a career that I had never considered and made me think about my own career choices and staying open to different possibilities as well as doing what it is that you love.

**by Holly P, Y10**



## A Message from the Development Office

We've thoroughly enjoyed meeting up with over 200 Old Nottinghamians, over the last few weeks, through our extensive events programme.

Class reunions have been high on the agenda and overseas visits are increasingly popular which have included families from the US, Poland and Australia coming back to see us. It's great to hear about their time at the School and to find out more about what they've been up to since they left us, but it also gives us an opportunity to share the Headmaster's vision for the future and how they can play their part in ensuring its continued growth and success.

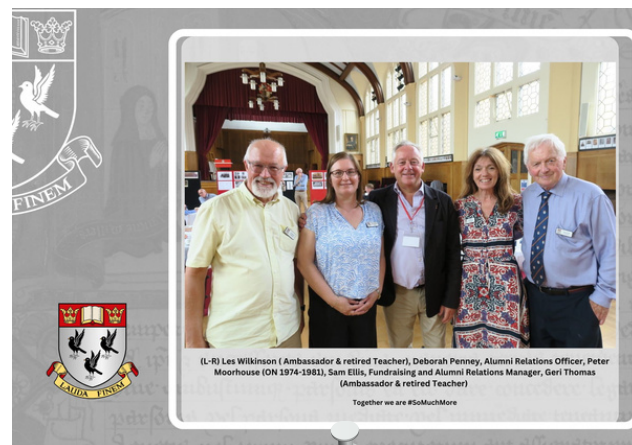
Here's just some of their feedback we have received:

'Thanks for a great day. It's now 69 years since I left and what a difference between then and now. We were spellbound by it all and tremendously impressed' Legator visit

'I just wanted to thank you again for all your time yesterday and for making us feel so welcome. I enjoyed the tour very much and it was wonderful to find how thoroughly modern and diverse the school has become. The exceptional quality of pupils work on display throughout the school was just a joy to see' Class reunion

'Many thanks for organising such an interesting day for me at the School. I hadn't expected it to generate such a strong emotional reaction but I suppose that it should not have been a surprise given how much I enjoyed my time at the school. I enjoyed the tour very much and was hugely impressed with the facilities available to pupils and the enthusiasm of the people I met. Please also thank Kevin Fear for the time he spent with me. It seems to me that under his leadership the school is in very safe hands' Donor visit

'The 35 or so Old Nottinghamians who attended the various events over the weekend were hugely impressed- not just by the facilities and status of the School but also by the professionalism of the Development Office and by the efforts which had been made to make them feel welcome and remind them that they are part of a "community for life' Class reunion and 150 years of cricket. **We are incredibly grateful to the Old Nottinghamians who generously give their time to support our work. Thank you!**



## Year 12 Biology Cranedale Fieldtrip 2023

Over the weekend of the 23rd-25th June, the Biology department took our year 12s on their residential field trip to the Cranedale Environmental Studies Centre near Malton, North Yorkshire. On the way, we stopped off at the wonderful RSPB reserve at Bempton cliffs to study conservation of marine birds, as well as conducting an investigation into zonation on the rocky shore at Filey – as our resident expert on identifying the organisms, Mr Mantell spent the afternoon hopping around the shore so he could help every group. Once we arrived at Cranedale, the students were guided through several ecological activities in support of both the required practical section of the course and the associated ecology topic areas. The activities included: setting small mammal traps (we caught five mice this time!); using 'mark-release-recapture' to estimate snail population size; sampling different stages of succession in a disused quarry; and planning and carrying out an investigation on the effect of an invasive crayfish species on freshwater biodiversity. There was also an evening bat walk which resulted in the students being treated to a dazzling aerial display by a group of Pipistrelles! Altogether, the weekend was a valuable opportunity for the students to study nature and enhance their understanding of the A-level content.

## Year 7 Eurovision

Following on from the intensity of the exam season, the Languages department decided to organise a Eurovision contest to promote unity, fun, and language awareness. The final winners were 7E with their rendition of 'La Bamba', closely followed by 'Waka Waka' and 'Libérée Délivrée.' We were really impressed with all the performances, and we hope that this will become an annual event.

One of the judges was keen to share with us his account of events...

I didn't know what to expect when I was asked to help out with the Year 7 Eurovision contest, but along the Languages corridor I soon heard the various classes practising, giving me a hint as to what was to come. They had each learnt a song, subsequently performing them in a one-take music video that was played in the Founder Hall. Having been promoted to a judge, I was to score the pronunciation, a tricky task considering my language ability only extends to Spanish. The genres varied from famous pop that I could recognise, to obscure rock, but there was even greater diversity in the videos. Featuring costumes, dancing, solos and more, they were easily the highlight. Each video was met with ardent applause by the students, and while there was a slight controversy with the results (no Spanish bias at all...), the event was full of fun, moving and ultimately very enjoyable, what more could you ask for?



**[Take a look at the performances here!](#)**

## Anthea Bell Translation Exchange - The Queen's College, Oxford



In April, the Modern Foreign Languages department submitted many entries translated from French, German, Spanish, and Italian, to the Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators, run by The Queen's College, Oxford. In June, we were delighted to learn that the following entrants had been successful in the area judging round.

Regional winner, Italian Level 3: Chloe J (Year 10)

Regional winner, Italian Level 4: Jack D (Year 12)

Commendation, German Level 1: Lana P & Betty (Year 7)

These achievements are particularly impressive when we consider that over 15,000 students nationally participated in the prize in 2023. Area winners will now be put through to the UK-wide competition and national winners will be announced shortly. We wish to pass on our congratulations to our winners. A team of undergraduates and professional translators from The Queen's College judged entries, which were submitted anonymously, to the competition and all commented on the excellent standard. We hope that all of our linguists enjoyed this process and will be keen to participate again next year.

# PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION & ETHICS NEWS

## Fiestas, Funerals and Festivals

After a very busy term with a lot of revision and writing of exam answers, Year 9 students have been spending time learning about a different culture, language and building in ideas of life and death.

You might think that this is a morbid and depressing topic but it's been a set of lessons full of colour, philosophy and exploration into a topic that often gets shied away from. We've looked at why we use euphemisms when someone dies, how the Spanish take care of their dead and what the history of religion is in Spain. Miss Davis has had great fun learning new Spanish words and sometimes being taught by students instead of it being the other way around!

*What happens when we die? Is there life after death? Why do people believe in an afterlife? How do we cope with grief? If you could make a renewed world, what would it look like?*

Year 9 have had the chance to explore all of these questions, and perhaps never finding an answer! We have looked at the perspective of different faiths to these questions including Sikhs, Muslim and Christian. Cosmic beings, the apocalypse, creating our own plot line to a new world play, and even some investigating into the Nottingham-based firm "Crazy Coffins" and their bespoke designs, have kept Year 9 busy for the past few weeks. We even made Day of the Dead cookies and started preparations for next term's Curiosity Corridor.



**Would you want to be immune to death?** Personally I would not want to be immune to death. This is because one of the major things that makes us human is the fact that we are mortal and can die. If we cannot this would change our very being as well as being shunted and pushed away from society as you are different. Finally the pain of seeing a loved one die over and over would drive anyone insane.

I would not want to be immune to death because that would mean that all of my loved ones would die before me leaving me to die alone whenever I choose to, so I would rather live a shorter life with my loved ones than a longer life alone.

In a renewed world, it would be peaceful everywhere and everyone would live in harmony and unity. It would have lots of diversity, there would be global cooperation, and the well-being of people and the planet would be prioritised, rather than something like money. To achieve this, we would require a large change in education, environmental awareness, and society as a whole. International collaboration, scientific advancements, and technological innovations would also play crucial roles. A better law system would also be pivotal in changing this world, as well as peace, equality, and environmental protection.

**What do the coffins reveal about what matters to the person, and how?** Crazy coffins reveal what mattered to a person in a unique and personalised way. They show their interests and what makes them happy. It's a way to express their personality even after they're gone and be remembered in a special and memorable manner.

**Many places offer cardboard, reed or even woollen coffins. Why do people want there more 'natural' funerals.** Natural coffins are usually biodegradable and are made from sustainable materials, which reduces the environmental impact of burial. People who are eco-consciousness might choose these options to reduce their carbon footprint and lessen their impact on the environment.

## Year 8 Activities Day

This day for Year 8 centred on developing and cultivating equal and healthy relationships. We invited a range of external providers – Equation on ‘personal space’, the Upfront Theatre Company on ‘the awkward chat’, Young People’s Education Community on ‘friendship expectations’, and researchers from Nottingham Trent University on ‘banter’ – to deliver in-house sessions on this theme. Through a series of interactive, engaging, and fun sessions, Year 8 understand better how to improve relationships with their peers. There was a focus on tackling and identifying bullying; cultivating positive relationships with respectful boundaries; the research around the perceptions and problems of banter, and we also a session of retro games. Here, pupils were about to put into practise the skills acquired from other sessions especially about personal space and respect. We were lucky to have the expertise of Mr Johnson who brought some of his co-curricular games to this session, including Klask which became very popular! You’ll find more photos on Twitter and we’ve included some pupil reviews for you.

### *Student Review:*

I think that my favourite activity was the one about friendship and boundaries, which I found interesting as it taught me all about how social media is affecting us, and about boundaries and how they are different with different people. I think it was valuable because it showed us how things might make a person uncomfortable whereas other things they could be ok with. I think it is important to learn things like this.

1. The first session was the one about boundaries, and I found it interesting because it discussed lots about social media and how it can affect things like our sleep. I liked the activities that we did as well, which was designing a poster for a social media campaign and also drawing a house, and adding good/bad qualities in friendships. I think I could have improved if I spoke more. This developed my personal development, as it explained the result of what social media is doing to many people my age, and I am also now able to identify what things would be good or bad in a relationship with friends.
2. The second we did was the banter activity. I liked this as we could interact and write how we felt about the definitions, and what banter is anonymously, which made it fun to see all the different opinions that there are in my class. I think this developed my personal development as having everyone’s opinions shown makes it easy to see how not everyone will like what others find funny. I think I participated most in this activity because of how we were able to submit our responses anonymously online, and I know I wouldn’t have shared my opinions if I had to speak in front of the class.
3. We had board games as our third activity, and I liked this as it let me play games with my friends, which we hadn’t played before together, like Dobble, Scrabble and Go Fish. I think it connected us more and strengthened our friendship.
4. For the fourth activity, we did the personal space activity. I liked that in this one, we got separated by gender for the majority of the lesson, and as there are not many girls in my class, I found the discussion better, as it was only between my friends, the teacher and I. I think I could have improved by speaking or giving my opinion, as I didn’t contribute much in the group discussion. I learnt a lot from the session, and I think it was one of my favourites because of the activity at the start, where we all had to try and fit in a circle on the floor.
5. For the last activity we had the drama activity. This was a great activity because of the acting out of the scenarios, which made the message of the activity clear, but could also be entertaining. I think I learnt the most from this activity than any of the others, to do with bullying and the trouble it could lead the bullies to. I think I could have answered some of the questions for what I could have done better, and I think this gave me much more understanding of these issues for personal development.





### Year 8 TED Talks

On Tuesday July 4th, the High School hosted a celebration of our inaugural Year Eight TED talks programme.

All of Year Eight participated in the scheme, which was modelled on the TED conferences, which have been running since 1984. TED conferences feature speakers from a variety of backgrounds and subject expertise, speaking on issues and ideas that matter to them.

Year Eight were tasked with crafting a 3-5 minute presentation on a topic of their choice; developing their ideas, thinking about how present their ideas in an effective and engaging manner, and complementing this with a visual presentation. They then presented this talk to the rest of their class. Entries across the year group were enormously impressive, showcasing our students' huge variety of ideas, passions and experiences. From each class set, two speakers were chosen for the final event.

Parents, staff and fellow students were welcome to attend the TED session, where they enjoyed the following presentations:

- Daisy H: Hubris
- Marcus J-K: The House of Lords
- Jessica L: How can sport empower your life?
- Khushi G: To what extent are African-Americans still enslaved?
- Ara O: The effects of dopamine
- Tom C: Male mental health
- Evan L: Inflation
- Tegan D: Why you should play an instrument
- Charlene G: Why our history is so important for the future
- Sara T: Fear of public speaking

Presentations were hugely impressive, and a real credit to all concerned. Congratulations to our speakers, and big thanks to Mrs Auterson for helping develop the project!

**Fear of Public Speaking**

**Inflation**

**Why our History is so important for our Future**

**Hubris**



**Male Mental Health**

**Can Sport Empower Your Life?**



**The House of Lords**

**Are African-Americans still Enslaved?**

**Dopamine**

**Why you should Play an Instrument**

### Summer Sports Kit and Pre-Loved Sales

During the Summer break, we are offering the following dates for parents and students to come in to Nottingham High School to try on and purchase new and pre-loved sports kit items. Pre-loved uniform items will also be available to try on and purchase. Payments will be accepted on the day in cash or, preferably by card. This year we will be in the Player Hall.

- **Week 1** – Monday 10th to Friday 14th July from 9:30am to 3:30pm.
- **Week 2** – Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th August from 9:30am to 3:30pm.

Pre-booking is essential. Please book via [this link](#).

Schoolwear Solutions (Morleys), our school uniform supplier will join us on Wednesday 12th July 2023 from 9.40am to 3.40pm. Please book an appointment for Morleys via [this link](#).

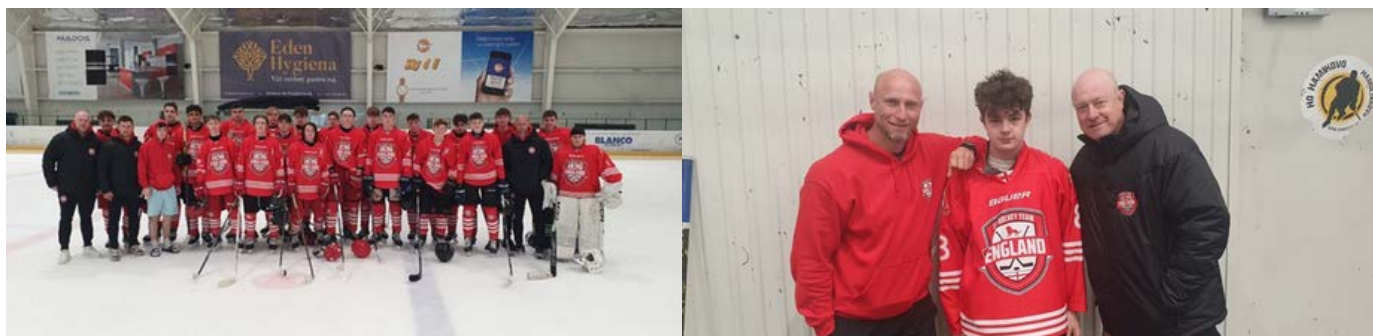
Donations for the pre-loved stocks are accepted all year round through the Student Services Office. All proceeds go towards our School Bursary scheme.

For queries, please contact [studentservices@nottinghamhigh.co.uk](mailto:studentservices@nottinghamhigh.co.uk) or 0115 845 2235.

### Ice Hockey Success

Justin D, Year 12 has just returned from Slovakia representing England Under 18 Ice Hockey. Here is his review:

I recently travelled to Bratislava, Slovakia for a 4-day trip representing England at Ice Hockey. The trip involved playing a tournament against both an Ireland international team, and a local Slovakian team called Hamuliakovo. The tournament was very competitive with very difficult games, particularly against the Slovakian side. I also enjoyed getting to explore the city in my free time and visit some of the local activities, such as going swimming and visiting a large shopping centre. Overall the trip was very successful and I was proud to represent England in the sport that I love.



### Community Action - Activities Day

On Activities day, Community Action members volunteered at Windmill Community Gardens, Bobbers Mill. In the morning, some of us started off creating a path by trampling down the foliage, and layering newspaper and wood chippings. Others helped to clear a space to sow grass seed, and collected some plants to make fertiliser. Next we helped empty a well and used the water to fill up a pond- it was particularly interesting to learn about the garden's water conservation. After a well earned lunch break, we were shown how to harvest the ripest wild raspberries. We each picked and ate one too: they were delicious! Then we helped clear some brambles and overgrown weeds to prepare a relaxing space for some hammocks. Overall it was a brilliant day where we got to learn many skills and help the wider community. I would recommend visiting the garden, and supporting their wonderful work! - **Anna R, Y10**



# SCHOOL NEWS GALLERY



Chess Final



RS & Spanish



RS & Spanish



Y7 DT Project



Y12 Biology Trip to Cranedale



U13 Regional Hockey Championships



Year 11 Prom



Athletics Training Awards



[Take a look at the full album.](#)



Sports Awards Evening



Y7 Geography Trip



# SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

## Year 8 City Championship success!

On Wednesday 28th June the Year 8 Athletics team headed to Harvey Hadden to compete in the Outdoor Athletics City Championships. Each pupil could only take part in one event (track or field) and then the relay. The girls' team came 4th overall with excellent performances from all. With great wins for Erica H-I in the 200m, Anvita coming 3rd in the 800m and Abi A winning the High Jump. The boys' team are city champions, and there were some notably successful performances, with wins in the 400m from Reece N and Tarun in the 1500m. The boys 4x100m team also won the relay.



## Year 8 cricket tour to Chester

At the start of June students from year 8 travelled to Chester to play against Kings School Chester and the following day played against Merchant Taylor's school. The girls' teams won both their games convincingly and have shown their prowess moving into year 9 and hopefully playing hardball. The boys had two close games against Kings School Chester and Merchant Taylors', losing their first game in the last over with excellent batting from Alex B and Ben C-B. The second game was another close game and the team showed great spirit and determination to the game.

## Unforgettable Henley Women's Regatta 2023 for Emily!

Emily's junior 18 double scull crew showed a very strong performance qualifying for the heats with the 9th fastest time overall and 6th nationally as in her category there were also faster crews from Australia and Spain.



## City Championship Record broken twice in one day by Gabriel O!



Gabriel O has had a highly successful season with numerous wins in multiple disciplines, however, his 200m performance on Wednesday at the city championships. Gabriel stormed his heat winning with a large distance between him and the field crossing the line in 24.4 seconds and breaking the championship record that has stood since 1978. After a short break, Gabriel took his place on the start line for the 200m final. Gabriel started well and came powering down the home straight with clear distance between him in the field and once again breaking his own record to lower the new city championship record to 24.3 seconds. A fantastic achievement.

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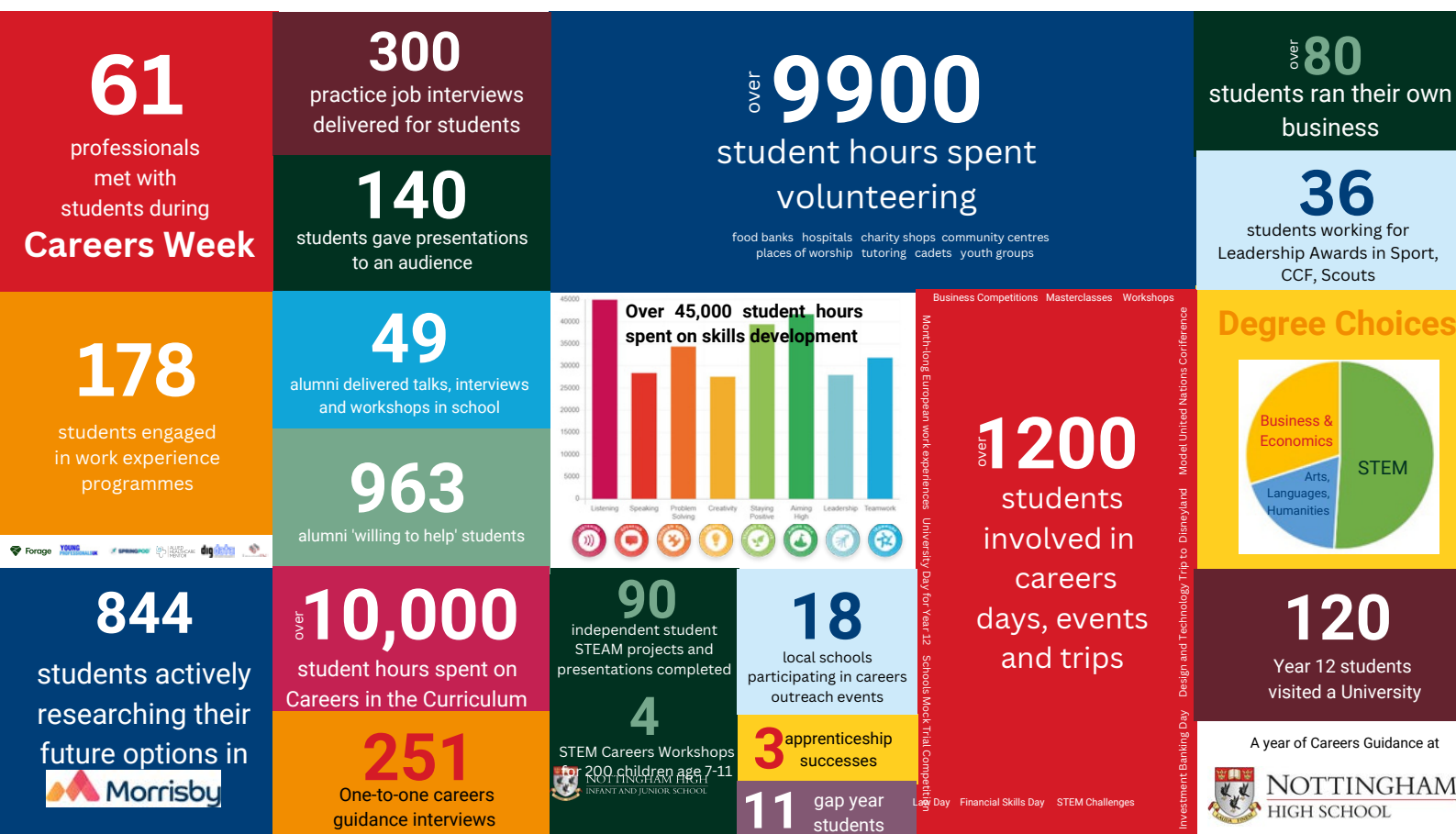
## U13 Regional Hockey Championships

Last weekend, Tom F and Gautham L, played in an annual national hockey festival known as UK U13 boys regional hockey championships. At the tournament, regional teams from all over England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales come together to play high quality hockey. Tom and Gautham's team, selected from hockey clubs across the East and West Midlands, known as Heart of England Boys, came third. Also, out of all those at the tournament, 36 players were selected to be part of a national team known as UK Lions Hockey and Tom was delighted to be one of those chosen.

# CAREERS UPDATE - JULY '23

A huge thankyou to all the parents, governors, staff and local businesses who have supported our Careers Programme in 2022-23. We've achieved an incredible amount together, for our own students and for the wider community too. Supporting students to make the most of every opportunity, to develop skills that will help them throughout life and helping them recognise their own strengths and passions in order to make good decisions for a happy and successful future is so important, so thank you for everything you have done. I look forward to working with you again next year!

**Rebecca Auterson, Head of Careers**



A reminder to all students in years 7-13 to update Morrisby with your current Career Favourites and the skills you are building through Activities as this ensure next year's Careers Programme features events and opportunities that are relevant to you personally.

[www.morrisby.com](http://www.morrisby.com)

Huge thanks to everyone who supported our Careers Programme this year and congratulations on being shortlisted - a super team effort!



# 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

