



# THE MERLE

NOTTINGHAM HIGH SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



26TH SEPTEMBER 2023 - ISSUE 37

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OPEN DAY 2023

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

It has been a busy start to the term with both Open Day and Speech Day. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our students who helped at the Open Day and who so impressed our visitors. This is a huge team effort by staff and students alike and our visitors were really impressed with the warmth of our welcome and the pride that our students feel in their school. Thank you too to all of you who recommend us to your friends and colleagues.

Work on our wellbeing centre is progressing well and this is likely to open after half-term. We will say more about this in future weeks but it will put wellbeing at the heart of our mission as a school and enable us to build resilience in students. This was a topic that our Speech Day speaker Ben Aldridge spoke interestingly and entertainingly about.

I spoke at Speech Day about how we are seeking to embed our five school values in our everyday lives at school so with this in mind it has been fantastic to see the first students being rewarded for doing just that. It is important for any organisation to set out what it believes in but it is better still if we can show how we embody those values in our daily lives.

Next week I will be heading to Stratford-upon-Avon for the annual HMC Conference. This brings together the heads of the majority of the top independent schools in the country to hear a wide variety of speakers and to have the chance to network with each other. Miss Gritti, our Deputy Head Individuals, has also been invited to speak about our safeguarding work and so we can spread our good practice further on this important topic.

I hope that you will enjoy reading the rest of our news below,

Kevin Fear (Headmaster)

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
25	26	27 DofE Parent Meeting (Bronze and Direct entry)  Maths Olympiad for Girls'  Music Scholars' concert (7pm)	28 Drama- GCSE Final devised exam (5-7pm)	29 Music - GCSE Solo recordings
2 Black History Months starts	3 Senior Maths Challenge  Music - Yr 7 Beatbox Collective (p 2-5)	4	5 Year 12 & 13 - Progress Tests  Year 10 Parents' Evening (Remote)  DEAR day: 12 mins per lesson	6 Year 12 & 13 - Progress Tests
9 Year 12 & 13 - Progress Tests	10 AS Geography Exam - Paper 1	11	12 <b>WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPH (P1-3)</b>  Drama - Year 7 Teatime performance (5-6pm)  Drama - Theatre visit - Kin (Playhouse - 7-9.30pm)	13 Geog - Slapton leaves - Year 12  Swimming - EMSA Gala @ NHS
16 Languages - Year 11 Listening exams all week  Year 12/13 PT Results to Parents	17 Geog - Slapton Year 12 Returns  Year 8: House XC in games	18 House VS Choirs Bridge Cup Finals - All Day Year 11/12/13 House XC in games Year 12 Parents' Evening (Remote)	19 Bridge Cup Finals - All Day House Singing Choirs  Year 9/10 House XC in games	20 Non Uniform Day Year 7 House XC in Games U13 Hockey tour to Holland (21ST OCT) CCF Camp Leaves (21st OCT)
23 Spanish trip to Catalonia leaves	24	25 U13 Hockey tour returns	26	27 CCF Camp returns (28th OCT)  Spanish trip to Catalonia returns (28th OCT)
 <p><b>HALF TERM</b> SUPPORT STAFF AVAILABLE TO CONTACT</p>				

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 have had a fantastic first few weeks and Mr Shabir and I have been very impressed with how well they have settled in. It was lovely to meet so many families at the Year 7 picnic on Saturday 9th and we hope Year 7 came home and shared lots of stories from the residential to Mount Cook last weekend. The Mount Cook staff commented on how friendly, polite and positive the students were towards all of the staff and each other. They really supported each other and encouraged each other with the different challenges, such as High Ropes and Rock Climbing. They have had some interesting assemblies over the last couple of weeks, including an introduction to the School Values from Mrs Simpson, the co-curricular clubs by Mr Alexander and a launch of the Year 7 languages trip led by Mr Beattie. Year 7 have been trying out a range of different clubs and please do encourage them to go to at least 2 per week to experience the fantastic range of exciting clubs on offer.


Homework for Year 7 started on Monday 18th September and hopefully they are settling into the routine and please do encourage them to speak to one of us on the Year 7 team and their tutor if they need any support with staying organised.

## Head of Year 8 - Dr Matthew Lakin



The Year 8s have settled in to the familiar rhythm of the Nottingham High school day, and Miss Davis and I have enjoyed welcoming them all back at the start of the new school year. It has been lovely to see them interact with each other so positively and maturely, and they have made an overall good collective impression on the school community. The focus of the year is on kindness, interest, and self-responsibility, and we have seen plenty of it so far. We have asked the Year 8 to focus on the 'effort' to be kind, the small acts of other-regarding behaviours, where Y8s consciously put others before themselves in what they do and think. We've had some fantastic feedback about the cohort, and it's great to see so many of them getting the year off to a good start.


## Head of Year 9 - Ms Marquez-Godoy



Welcome back to all of Year 9, and what a start to the year it has been! With a fantastic 325 distinctions gained by Year 9 in the first two weeks of term, it is safe to say that, as a year group, they have hit the ground running. We have kicked off the academic year by starting our new PSHE programme, with a focus on students exploring attitudes towards drugs; our students responded very well to the topic and asked a range of mature and engaging questions during their PSHE lessons.

Outside the classroom, it has been wonderful to see how enthusiastic Year 9 have been about the launch of the new co-curricular programme, and they have thoroughly enjoyed the clubs on offer during lunch times this week. Some students have also gone above and beyond to demonstrate their excellence in other activities, with Clea S placing 5th and 10th, representing NHS at the British Showjumping Nationals. She also placed 7th at the Royal International Horse Show. Daisy H has also been working hard in rehearsals for a production of Grease at Nottingham Arts Theatre which took place over the weekend.

## Head of Year 10 - Mr Paul Allison



It has been a pleasure to welcome the year 10 students to their new home in the East Block corridor. The atmosphere is very positive and the students seem to be settling in well, with many new friendships forming and old ones developing. The overall aim is to ensure the students make an enjoyable and positive transition to their KS4 journey. It was nice to see a lot of parents attend the welcome evening hosted by Mr Spedding and other colleagues last week.


In such a short period of time, there is a lot to celebrate. The Hockey and Rugby teams have started their fixtures and a lot of students have been attending the after school training sessions. There are a number of students involved with music and drama performances and it was excellent to see some year 10's receive prizes at the annual speech day. The year group council has been selected and these students will form part of the whole school council which allows the students voice to be heard through strategic meetings throughout the year.

PSHE lessons have been delivered and will continue to form a valuable part of the extended curriculum the school is committed to deliver. The topic this half term focuses on 'Mental Wellbeing'.

One individual mention goes to James G for passing his grade 8 Saxophone exam. We wish him all the success with future performances and practice.

Please can I remind parents and students to continue to support the schools uniform policy and the wearing of PE and games kit at the appropriate times. I look forward to reporting on further celebrations in the next edition of the Merle.

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



It has been fantastic to see the Year 11 corridor and Sixth Form Centre full and hubs of energy again. Year 11 have been engaging in really positive conversations with Tutors and Senior Tutors regarding their forthcoming mock exams, as well as engaging with the Morrisby platform and attending Careers meetings to help them plan their future. Our new Year 12 students have settled in seamlessly to the new environment and made an excellent impression on their teachers. The 11-13 Team and Tutors also appreciated the opportunity to meet with their parents at the recent Supporting Success Evening, sharing advice on how best to help their sons and daughters navigate the next two years. There are always so many opportunities for Year 12 to engage with at this time and early meetings for Young Enterprise, the EPQ and Gold DofE have been full of students eager to grasp these. Year 13 have also been extremely busy, as we are now very much in the midst of their university application process. We have been delighted to see that so many students are on track to have their personal statements completed to a high standard and UCAS forms submitted, especially those early applicants. We were also very proud of the way our Year 13 Student Leadership Team supported Speech Day and the way all speakers from Year 12 and 13 represented themselves and the school so impressively.

**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](#).

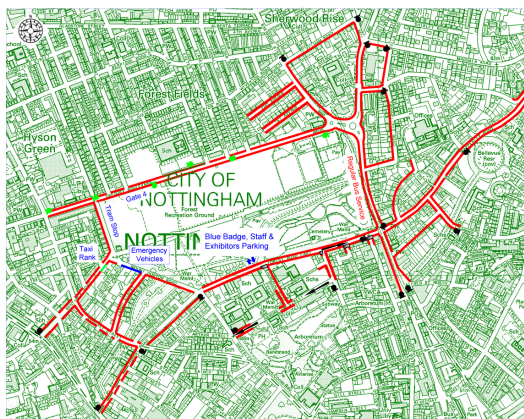
**Goose Fair**

Goose Fair begins on Friday 29th September and runs until Sunday 8th October. There will be traffic restrictions and 'no stopping zones' that affect the school, with a one-way system running around the school site.

There will still be the facility to drop off and collect your child from the main school yard from 4.15pm until 6pm, please ensure you leave enough time for any traffic delays you may encounter.

There will be a no stopping restriction in place along Forest Road so if you usually wait here for your child you are allowed to park free of charge within the Goose Fair site. Enter via the Blue Badge Parking entrance (Gate 12) opposite Balmoral Road and then immediately turn left and park along the top path way. This service will be available from 15.30 to 16.30.

There is a possibility of tram strikes over the Goose Fair period. We do have a school bus service where you can book ad hoc journeys if required, please use the following [link](#) to find out further information.



CLICK THE IMAGE  
TO SEE THE MAP



**RECRUITMENT**

We have a great opportunity to join Nottingham High School as our new **Mental Health Lead Practitioner**. This is an initial 12 month fixed term contract but there is scope for a permanent position.

This position will support our new Wellbeing Centre. Offering a responsive, specialist mental health support practice to all students who may be experiencing a wide range, and differing degrees, of emotional and psychological difficulties thus ensuring student attendance, widening participation, academic achievement, academic participation and progression.

More information can be found [here](#).

**UK Lions Hockey**

Congratulations to Tom Freeston (Y9) who has been selected for the UK Lions Hockey squad



**Live Vacancies**

We currently have the following opportunities to join our team

- Music Administrator**
- Financial Reporting & Analysis Accountant**
- Financial Clerk**
- Mental Health Lead Practitioner**
- Trainee School Counsellor**
- Marketing & Admissions Executive**
- Head of Rugby and Teacher of PE & Games**
- Head Chef**
- Teacher of Design and Technology**

[Click here for more details](#)

### Year 13 Geography Awards

The current Year 13 Geographers are continuing to work hard as they prepare for their upcoming A Level exams. They have recently been given recognition for their hard work during Year 12 with prizes for attainment, fieldwork, endeavour and intellectual curiosity. Well done to all of the prize winners pictured as well as congratulations to the many more students who were shortlisted for prizes. We wish all the Geographers good luck in the forthcoming exams.



### Gardening Club

Year 7 and 8 have been busy harvesting since returning to school from the summer break. Marrows, beetroot, tomatoes and carrots grown in the school vegetable plot have been whipped up into some lovely soups and salads for the canteen over the last two weeks and the beetroot brownies we made at cooking club this week were a hit with all who tried them! We have had a bumper crop of tomatoes this season and continue to supply the school kitchens. Some of our keen gardening cooks will also be making soup with our delicious plum tomatoes on Monday. Now we've just got to find some recipes for all of the green ones...



### Curiosity Values Award

It has been extremely exciting to see our very first students receive their Values Awards this week. Eleven Year 7 students have so far received their Curiosity Award, presented by members of the Senior Management Team. Students are showing a real interest in these awards and it is fantastic to see our values coming to life already this academic year. We are also keen to celebrate student successes from outside of school, so please do let your student's tutor know about their fantastic achievements. You can hear more about our new Values Awards from Mrs Simpson, Deputy Head International and Strategic Projects, in this video. [WATCH HERE](#)



## PHSE

As the World changes, so does our program of learning in PSHE. We have revamped our scheme to make it more cohesive by following a single topic in each half term. Through student voice in 2022-2023 we heard about what our students wanted to learn about, and what teaching and learning styles they found most helpful and we hope they will enjoy the mix of activities we have in store for them! Watch out for invitations to KitKat chats for students to give us feedback on how they find the new scheme of learning.

This month parents were consulted on their opinions about how PSHE is taught at Nottingham High School and we were delighted to receive overwhelmingly positive feedback. Parents were also offered the chance to comment on our RSE Policy, which has now been reviewed and is available on our Senior School Policies page [here](#).

## News from the Development Office

We're excited to announce a series of upcoming events designed exclusively for the Old Nottinghamian Community.

These events aim to keep members of our school community connected as well as creating opportunities for personal, and professional, growth.

### London Dinner

26th January 2024

[BOOK HERE](#)

### Cambridge Dinner

24th February 2024

[BOOK HERE](#)



L-R Deborah Penney, Headmaster Kevin Fear Sam Ellis

As part of our Regional Dinner programme, we'll also be in Manchester and Sheffield in February 2024, and Leeds, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Bristol and Birmingham in March. More on these to follow in due course. We hope to see you there!



## Music Programme

Click the image above to see all the forthcoming Music Department events & concerts for 2023/2024.



## Notts Schools Cricket County Cup Success

One of the first School sports fixtures this year was the U12 Cricket County Cup final. After a series of good performances over the Summer Term, our U12A Cricket team had earned their place in the competition final, which this year took place in the first week of the Autumn Term against the West Bridgford School at Notts and Arnold Cricket Club.

In a close game, against a strong West Bridgford team, the High School ended their season successfully as U12 County Champions. Special mentions for Sahil G for his player of the match performance, Jai S for his strong captaincy, Sannibh G for a fantastic final over and Sridhar M who now knows to use hands rather than head to stop a cricket ball. As Year 8 students they will now go on to represent Nottinghamshire in a national T20 competition for U13 teams commencing next Summer. Huge congratulations to the team and all that played for, or supported, our U12 Cricket teams this year.



# SCHOOL NEWS GALLERY



Gardening Club

Bridge Cup Choir Rehearsals



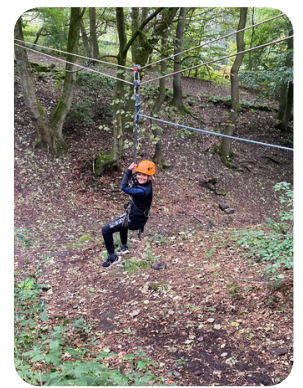
[Speech Day - View the Photos Here](#)



Sixth Form Climbing



Year 7 Smoothie Making



Year 7 Mount Cook Residential



[Open Day Art Installation - view photos here](#)



Coding Club



Algorithms and computational methods in Computer Science

# Careers News - September 2023

Year 11 have completed their Morrisby profiling and are starting to think seriously about their A-level choices, which they'll make this term. There are many considerations, including thoughts of where particular subjects might lead. Fortunately there are some fantastic opportunities to find out more about different careers already being advertised and not just for those in Year 11. Take a look at the advertisements below, and sign up for anything that interests you. Can't find quite what you are looking for? Then come and speak to me about your interests and we'll see what opportunities there are for you to explore things further.



Business Law | Personal Law | Investment

**Law work experience -  
October half term**



Free online work experience programmes, many leading to in-person opportunities



**Online Insight Events:**  
Law  
Business  
Finance  
Apprenticeships



**Year 13 work experience opportunity for Oct half term. Apply to Mr Tan.**



Unique event for girls age 11-15 to meet inspiring women leaders from across industry



New app for **creative careers** with daily updates and opportunities



**online conferences and courses**



Inspirational work experience and career taster programmes



**Interview practice and advice**



# 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](mailto: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



# OPEN DAY 2023

[View all images here](#)

