



THE MERLE

NOTTINGHAM HIGH SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



6TH OCTOBER 2023 - ISSUE 38

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YEAR 10 VOLUNTEERS

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

This week I have been in Stratford-upon-Avon at the annual conference of HMC, the Head's organisation for those of us that lead independent schools. There were many inspiring talks with a common theme of leadership but also some useful workshop sessions and the chance to meet with those doing this role in other schools. It is always a source of good ideas for the future and a chance to reflect on the first half of term.

Progress on our Wellbeing centre is going well and we are confident that it will open immediately after the half-term holiday. We are recruiting for some new roles to support our work there and details of these can be found below. Please do draw these to the attention of any colleagues you have that might be interested. Tonight I am attending an event to thank those who donate to our bursary fund. This is an important part of our work as it ensures that the School has a really good social mix within it. Many of these donors are ex-students of the School and they are always interested to hear what our current students are doing. Before that I have a meeting with our student leadership team – we really do value the student voice and earlier this week the Senior Management team heard an excellent presentation on all that our school council has been discussing recently. Such feedback really does make a difference.

Our teaching and learning focus this year is on one of our values, that of curiosity. You can read below about our new curiosity cabinet and I hope that this will spark several interesting conversations in the School. We are keen that learning is not just about exam syllabi and content but sparks a genuine curiosity in the wider world.

I hope that you all have a very good weekend,

Kevin Fear (Headmaster)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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 WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPH (P1-3) 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)
← HALF TERM → SUPPORT STAFF AVAILABLE TO CONTACT				
30	31	1	2	3
← HALF TERM → SUPPORT STAFF AVAILABLE TO CONTACT				

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

7

Head of Year 7 - Mrs Hollie Neale

Year 7 have settled in well to the school routine and we are very pleased with how well they are doing with managing homework, attending lunchtime clubs and all of their activities outside of school. Well done to all of those who took part in their first Hockey & Rugby fixtures at the weekend. It was a tough set of fixtures against Denstone and Worksop, however well done to the U12A Hockey team for their 3-0 win against Worksop.

Year 7 form reps had their first year council meeting last week. Mr Shabir and I were very impressed with their discussions and suggestions around catering, wellbeing and environmental matters. Tanvi (7B), Oscar (7D) and Jarnail (7E) represented the year group at the whole school council.

Year 7 had their first DEAR (drop everything and read) day this week and we have been pleased to hear how much they have been using the incredible school library since they started. We hope they enjoy the last two weeks of this half-term which will include a whole school photograph, further fixtures, house cross country and the performances for the singing and verse speaking choirs.

8

Head of Year 8 - Dr Matthew Lakin

It has been great to see the Year 8s making such a purposeful and positive start to the school year. Miss Davis and I are impressed by the breadth of their interests and talents, by their increasing concern for others, and their self-organisation as they navigate the competing demands on their time. It is fantastic to see so many of them taking part in the verse-speaking and singing choirs, which will be performed in the last week of this half-term. It has been a very busy half term, and it is great to see so many students taking part in the rich sport and co-curricular activities on offer. Mrs Simpson spoke to Year 8 about the School's Values, and the ways in which they can win a Value award: we look forward to seeing the Year 8s achieve these Value awards. The students who have achieved the highest number of distinctions are:

Samia Al Sadi on 16 distinctions - Hattie Jamieson on 15 distinctions - Kayode Adewoye on 15 distinctions
Sophie Blundell on 14 distinctions - Layla Akroyd on 14 distinctions
Well done to these five students.

9

Head of Year 9 - Ms Marquez-Godoy

This week, Year 9 have been continuing with their PSHE work on managing influence. It has been fantastic to see how well they have responded to the challenging topics discussed, with many thoughtful comments made about how to respond to peer pressure, teasing and internal influence.

The year group also listened to a fantastic assembly from Mrs. Higson about device addiction and how valuable their time is. The assembly encouraged everyone to reflect on their screen time and to consider how that time could be spent in a different way. With our first DEAR day of the school year this week, it may be that some of our students opt to spend some time reading, rather than on their devices!

Year 9 have had a number of opportunities to engage with school life this week. Firstly, the student council meeting was held, and each form passed on their ideas for discussion. It is brilliant to see how engaged the year group were in this process; I'm certain that the feedback will be of great interest to them. Secondly, Mrs Simpson asked for volunteers for her 'Hold the Door' campaign in school, which focuses on small acts of kindness and empathy. More opportunities have included Inktober, run by the Art Department, and the re-launch of Eco Schools.

10

Head of Year 10 - Mr Paul Allison

Year 10 have settled very well and they continue to impress me with their mature attitude and friendly demeanour. There are now twenty students who have taken on the role as 'Year 10 Ambassadors' in a number of lunchtime activities for younger students. This is a great way to develop leadership skills. Students are leading Food club, Table Tennis club, Netball club and Drama. We also have a number of students helping Mrs Simpson with the 'Holdthedoor' campaign which is a national campaign to promote kindness and empathy.

There is a lot going on in the classrooms as well, with students settling into their GCSE subjects. Many students have been impressing their teachers and the year group have been awarded over 500 distinctions between them.

Congratulations to Zara C, Om K and Kate R who have amassed ten each already.

A large number of students have been attending co-curricular activities before school and after school and the PE department are pleased with the number of students committing to after school sports training and early morning fitness sessions.

It has been a busy few weeks for sport as well with fixtures in Rugby, Hockey and Cross Country. Congratulations to the year 10 rugby team who won their opening game of the National plate competition v Ratcliffe College.

The PSHE curriculum continues to be delivered to year 10 with further information and lessons on 'Mental Wellbeing' The school are also looking forward to the opening of the new 'Wellbeing centre' after half term.

11
to
13

Head of Year 11-13 - Mr David Gillett

Sixth form PSHE has had two great speakers so far this year. Rick Findler a photo journalist talked about his work capturing war. This week, Victoria Butler-Cole KC presented on medical ethics and the high profile cases that she has worked on.

Over 50 students have signed up to Young Enterprise this year and are productively working on their Dragons Den presentations to be held on Tuesday 17th Oct. We await the Dragons. Y12 students have engaged enthusiastically with the prefect programme over the two weeks. Following an assembly to them about the opportunities on offer, they have made their options and are already starting to develop some leadership within departments, year group areas or within an area of wider school life such as climbing club, drama with Y9/10 or cooking with younger students. The peer mentoring scheme is being launched to Y7 and we have a group of willing Y12 'buddies' who are ready to pair up with them to give support in various aspects of school life.



Whole School Photograph



On Thursday 12th October we will be having the 16th Whole School Photograph. The first was taken in 1919 and contained just 574 staff and students. This year we will be closer to 1400. This is a huge event for the school and requires full cooperation from all involved. Please ensure that your child leaves the house in full school uniform on that morning. If they are in Year 9 or 10 then they should bring their games kit with them to get changed into.

Philosophy Club (M11 – tues 1-1.30)



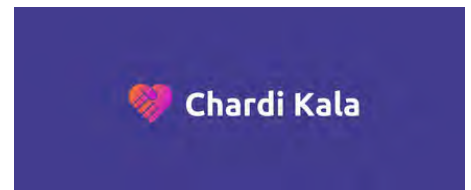
The year 12 philosophy students have enjoyed starting a new philosophy club for years 7-9, discussing new and exciting philosophical problems. They first tackled the well-known trolley problem and considered the various different options regarding who they would save if they had the choice, it was great to hear the younger years interacting and debating with the year 12's and deciding what they would do. Recently they delved into the fascinating topic of time travel, thinking about whether it was actually possible and if they could travel through time what would they change. In the coming weeks they will be exploring questions like 'How do we know blue is blue?' and 'is teleportation possible'.



Chardi Kala

Students Hukam & Bachan Sethi and family have launched a registered charity in memory of their late grandfather who had Parkinson's. The charity gives grants to aid people living with the disease. Hukam plays a role in the charity by building the editing the website and updating social media platforms.

They also became Cooper's house charity for this year, and look forward to all the work they will do with the school. Visit Chardikala.org.uk for more details.



Football 1st Team

The Football 1st team are now through to the 3rd round of the ESFA U18 Arnold Clark Schools Cup after overcoming Friesland School. The Draw will take place on the 12th October.

News from the Development Office



We are pleased to share the latest Nottingham High School Donor Impact Report.

Click [here](#) to read how members of the Old Nottinghamian community are supporting their old school and helping us to change lives through education.

Live Vacancies

We currently have the following opportunities to join our team

- Music Administrator**
- Mental Health Lead Practitioner**
- Trainee School Counsellor**
- Marketing & Admissions Executive**
- Head of Rugby and Teacher of PE & Games**
- Teacher of Design and Technology**
- Head of Cricket**
- Head of Drama**
- Teacher of Drama**

[Click here for more details](#)

Arkwright Scholarship

The Design and Technology department are extremely proud of Matthew Wilding for being awarded a prestigious Arkwright Scholarship. The Arkwright Scholarship is the most esteemed scholarship of its type in the UK, designed to inspire students to pursue their dreams and change the world as an outstanding engineer of the future. The Scholarships are awarded to hard-working 16 year old students who go through a rigorous selection process including a examination and a formal interview.

This year the competition was high with 622 candidates being shortlisted for the interviews. During this process candidates are paired with potential sponsors who will support them throughout their A-Level studies, Matthew was lucky enough to be paired with the Royal Air Force for the next two years.

If you are in year 11 and are interested in applying for an Arkwright Scholarship and have a keen interest in a career in Engineering, come to the Design and Technology department and speak to Mr Burgess about this exciting opportunity.



Curiosity Cabinet

What is that? What is that used for? Where have those come from? What's that country like?

As part of this year's Teaching and Learning focus, each month a different academic Department will curate a 'Cabinet of Curiosity' in the Senior School.

The Philosophy, Religion and Ethics department are leading with this month's exhibition on Curiosity.

Walk along past the cabinet throughout October and you'll find a selection of different artefacts and religious symbols alongside some of the many photographs from recent and long-ago trips: visits to India, the Taj Mahal, a boat ride on the Ganges River, the souks of Marrakesh, the Colosseum, the famous Polish Salt Mines....

The six major world faiths are represented in some way alongside some useful QR codes to transport students to distant lands and to find out about why some of the items in our cabinet mean so much to others. Students may well be in a class with someone of that faith or who has been to a country that others know little about. This is a great opportunity to share stories or fun tales. Students might have other things at home they'd like to put in the cabinet, or be like Miss Davis who nearly got squashed by a cow in Sarnath bartering for a Buddhist singing bowl, or have a friend like her who brought back Prayer Flags from Everest base camp.

We hope this month's cabinet will spark some curious conversations around the school!



Immerse Education Essay Competition

Over the Summer Sasmeet Satyam (Y11) participated in the "Immerse Education Essay Competition" submitting a piece of work on "Is taking Anabolic Steroids for muscle growth worth the risks it has on the body?".

Among thousands of participants Sasmeet was successful and this week was awarded a scholarship to attend a course which he is planning to attend on Medicine.

Beatboxing Workshops: Tuesday 3rd October

This week in music, as part of Black History Month, Year 7 have enjoyed the opportunity to experience professional beatboxer and world champion, MC Basics, who is the founder of [The Beatbox Collective](#) an extraordinary group of artists, all with their own very distinct sounds. The students learnt about the origins of beatboxing and were taught rudimentary skills, picking up lots of tips and tricks on the way. They thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and were very enthusiastic. Afterwards, comments included "he was awesome, he could create different layers just by using his voice", and "I liked the open mic-off sessions, hearing other students freestyle; they were brilliant".

Scholars' Concert: Wednesday 27th September, 7pm

Last week we kicked off our events programme with the Scholars' Concert in the Player Hall. The standard was incredibly high and every student performed superbly. We were treated to a wide range of styles and instruments and it was a lovely evening, well attended by families.

A huge congratulations to all the scholars:

Y7: Isabel Kelly, Joseph Moran, Katherine Zhu;

Y8: Alice Dow, Hattie Jamieson;

Y9: Evan Au-Yong, Emma Gorton, Evan Lam;

Y10: Nathan Chita, Charles Dowdall; Alex Herbert;

Y11: Eloïse Chita; Priya Mann;

Y12: Louis Ashton-Gully; James Bowden; Seth Dineen; Phoebe Forward, William Harwood, Seb Hope, Otto Wylie;

Y13: Jacob Corne, Tom Herbert, Ria Johnson, Hannah Poyser



Music Dates for your diary

Isobel Daws, Trombonist - Monday 16th October: Isobel is a young, successful trombonist who has already earned a name for herself in the professional orchestra scene. She will spend time with our trombonists and other brass players, as well as giving a lunchtime recital in the Player Hall at 1.15pm. All students are welcome to attend her recital.

Young Musician of the Year (formerly Bridge Cup Prizewinners' Concert) – Wednesday 15th November, 7pm: This is one of the highlights of the year, where the finalists from each of the three age categories perform for the coveted top position.

Autumn Concert – Tuesday 28th November, St. Mary's Church, Lacemarket, 7pm. This is the first of our large-scale events and will feature all our Senior ensembles. No tickets are required and refreshments will be served prior to the start of the concert.

Guru Nanak Mission

On Monday, the Year 10s from Community Action went down to a local Gurdwara to help in some food distribution work. Upon arrival, we were greeted by Mrs Sethi from the Infants and Junior School who showed us the temple and gave some information about Sikh beliefs & traditions. After that, it was hard work; preparing ingredients and stirring pots full of big batches of rice pudding (kheer) and masala chai (tea) was mostly what we did. Furthermore, Mrs Stafford had cooked some chilli with her Year 8s, and we used this as well. This was all later packaged, and we headed down into town.

Distributing the food was an almost unreal experience; there were a lot more people than expected, and they were mostly very friendly to talk to with amazing personalities. A lot of empathy was put into this part of the activity, we visualised what it was like to be in their shoes, and it made us want to be more generous and kinder to them.

Overall, this was a very eye-opening activity and a unique experience.



Sailing to Success

Chloe G in Year 7 currently one of the top ranked sailors in the country.

She has competed at a National level for a number of years now and is, by far, the youngest sailor in the country competing Nationally in an ILCA 4 (Laser). The ILCA 4 is the precursor to the ILCA 6, which is currently the Olympic female single-handed boat. She achieved 4th U16 girl in the British ILCA 4 National Sailing Championships at Hayling Island in August, which was a 6 days competition.

She has recently attended a number of qualifying events and last week, and we received the fantastic news that she has qualified for the RYA North and Midlands Squad and will be coached by the former female British Olympic sailor, Ali Young. Chloe is competing in National Sailing training events too working to improve her ranking, with the target of competing in her 1st Europeans next year in Portugal.



Graduate Careers Live!



TV PROGRAMME

Graduate Careers Live!

2pm-3.30pm Thursday 5th October 2023

A special TV programme for Year 13 sixth-form students on the graduate job market & degree apprenticeships.

[Watch Here](#)

Please help spread the word on our upcoming Taster Days. Your support in recommending the School to your friends, family and colleagues is much appreciated. Parents can register online or email admissions@nottinghamhigh.co.uk



EYFS TASTER DAYS
 Wednesday 18th October
 Thursday 9th November
 Thursday 16th November
 Tuesday 21st November
 Wednesday 29th November



YEAR 3 TASTER DAY
 Friday 10th November

For external children currently in Year 2 looking to start Year 3 in September 2024



YEAR 7 TASTER DAY
 Thursday 9th November

For external children currently in Year 6 looking to start Year 7 in September 2024



SIXTH FORM TASTER DAYS
 Tuesday 17th October
 Thursday 19th October
 Monday 6th November
 Thursday 9th November
 Monday 13th November
 Tuesday 21st November

For external students only

Emily continues to Row to success!

Emily had an amazing end of the rowing season. She competed in British Rowing Junior Championships 2023 and won Bronze medal in a women 18 pair category. Emily won three medals at Burton Rowing Regatta 2023, two of which were gold!



Nottinghamshire County Shooting

Alex represented Nottinghamshire County Shooting Team for the first time on Saturday in the Sportrap discipline. Shooting in very windy conditions but Alex helped Notts come 3rd in the competition.



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](#).

Local Sporting Opportunities

CLICK THE LOGOS TO VISIT THE WEBSITE LINKS

CRICKET
WOLLATON CC



HOCKEY
BEESTON HC



NETBALL
CITY NC



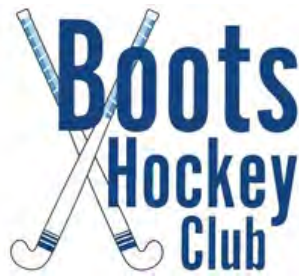
RUGBY
PAVIORS



GEDLING COLLIERY CC



BOOTS HC



CLIFTONETTES NC



NOTTINGHAM MODERNS



PLUMTREE CC



WEST BRIDGFORD HC



BRAMCOTE NC



NOTTINGHAM CORSAIRS



ELLERSLIE CC



NOTTINGHAM HC



STAPLEFORD NC



MELISH



SCHOOL NEWS GALLERY



YEAR 7 HOUSE TABLE TENNIS



CULTURE CLUB LEARNING HOW TO CULTURE OYSTER MUSHROOMS



[CLICK TO WATCH OUR DRONE VIDEO](#)



TOR BUTLER-COLE CAREERS VISIT



DRAMA CLUB



FOOD LESSON COOKING FOR THE GURU NANAK'S MISSION



DEAR DAY 2023

Careers News - October 2023

We were delighted to welcome Victoria Butler-Cole, KC, to speak to years 9, 12 and 13 about Medical Ethics and the working life of a Barrister. She explored a range of fascinating cases and a real insight into an area of law which many of us know little about. The students were particularly impressed to learn that she still enjoys her job after 18 years and commented that this isn't a comment you hear that often!

Many students express interest in legal careers, but healthcare, engineering, business, tech and creative are also popular areas to explore. Below are some recommended websites to help you explore different sectors. Do come and speak to me if you have any questions!

Mrs Auterson, Head of Careers

Tech

www.springpod.com
www.theforage.com
www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberfirst
www.roboticscareer.org
www.digdata.online
www.techskills.org
www.potnoodleinternships.com
www.mypocketskill.com
www.fiverr.com

Law

www.springpod.com
www.theforage.com
www.young-professionals.uk
www.allaboutlaw.co.uk
www.lawcareers.net
www.parliament.uk
www.gov.uk

Engineering

www.springpod.com
www.theforage.com
www.neonfutures.org
www.theengineer.co.uk
www.theiet.org
www.imeche.org

STEM

www.sciencecareerpathways.com
www.mathscareers.org.uk
www.wisecampaign.org.uk
www.iop.org/careers-physics
www.rsc.org
www.rsb.org.uk
www.springpod.com
www.theforage.com

Business

www.springpod.com
www.theforage.com
www.young-professionals.uk
www.milkround.com

Finance

www.allaboutfinancecareers.co.uk
www.icaew.com
www.studyingeconomics.ac.uk
www.ft.com

Environment

www.springpod.com
www.theforage.com

Sport

www.careers-in-sport.co.uk

Do also sign up for industry newsletters; 'follow' sectors and organisations on LinkedIn

MDV

Online Medicine Taster Course
with Brighton and Sussex Med
School

www.alliedhealthmentor.org
www.vetmentor.org
www.medicmentor.co.uk
www.springpod.com

Creative

www.creativejourneyuk.com
www.discovercreative.careers
www.creativelivesinprogress.com
www.screenskills.com
www.bbc.co.uk/careers

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 over £50,000 for the School's Bursary Fund.

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. 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.

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