



THE MERLE

NOTTINGHAM HIGH SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



20TH DECEMBER 2023 - ISSUE 42

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A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

I am writing this the morning after our inspiring Carol Service last night, which was such a joyous and uplifting occasion. The church was full and all those involved in the music, the singing and the readings all seemed to be really enjoying being part of this fantastic community occasion. It was good to see a number of parents in our community choir as well. I have already this morning received some emails of thanks from those who attended. Typical were these comments: 'I always enjoy the School's Carol Service, it's the true start of Christmas for me. Last night was even more exceptional and a tremendous credit to all those members of the School, who participated, not only high in terms of music proficiency but their joy and happiness shone through.' Someone else wrote: "I thought the Carol Service last night was truly exceptional. The talent on display was awesome and what's more, everyone involved looked as if they were enjoying it. I was really proud to be associated with the School. Huge congratulations are due to all involved."

The same was also true of the production of Chicago which played to full houses every night and was such a triumph. The standard of our School Music and Drama is really exceptional and gives our students so much pleasure and I'd like to thank all in both departments for all the pleasure they have given their audiences in recent weeks.

This has been a long term and I know how tired our staff and students are but all can look back with pride on all that has been achieved this term. I want to use this opportunity to thank everyone in the School community for all that has been achieved in 2023 – it has seen more outstanding results, the opening of our wellbeing centre, a revamped co-curricular programme and much much more.

I hope that all of you have a really special Christmas break, a chance to spend time with your families and to rest, relax and recuperate. All of us here at the School really appreciate your support and a huge thank you as well to all of you who have brought in gifts to members of staff at this time. It is also a time to look forward to the New Year and there is much to look forward to (including hopefully a Premier League title for Arsenal!). Next year though will also bring its challenges especially with respect to a looming general election and the impact on school fees if there is a Labour victory. The School enters this period though in good shape and we are determined to continue to provide the best education we can and for our students to remain happy and cared for. Have a lovely Christmas and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in January.

Best Wishes,

Kevin Fear (Headmaster)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8 INSET Day School closed for Christmas 20th Dec - 9th Jan 	9 Term Begins Y13 Mocks Start	10	11 Ethic Cup - Year 12 RS	12
15 Year 10: Geography Trip (9 - 1pm) Year 12 1-1 careers interviews start World Religions Week (ends 19th) Year 9 - Empathy Workshops + Staff/Parent School (4-6pm) GCSE Music - Year 11 Solo Recordings	16	17 Year 9 Opera Day Teatime concert (guitar and Percussion) - 4.45pm	18 Year 13 Mocks End (tbc)	19
22 House Climbing during games this week	23 Year 13 Art mock exam all day	24 ESU Debating Round 2 (4.30 - 8.00pm) Classics Dinner - 6.00 - 8.30pm	25 History - Great Debate (4.00pm) Battle of the Bands (5pm - tbc) RSC Chemistry Olympiad (9.15 - 11.15)	26 Drama - KS5 (9.30 - 12.30) Year 13 Mock Results to Parents Year 9 Beth Shalom
29	30 Year 13 Parents' Evening Studio Production - Dress Rehearsal (4-7pm)	31 Maths - Intermediate Maths Challenge	1 Drama - Yr 9/10 studio production (5 - 6pm) Year 11 GCSE Final Practical (8.30 - 12.30) LGBTQ+ Month Starts	2
5 Music Department Parents' Evening (4.15pm) Interim Grades Due 9.00am	6 Regional chess (4-8pm)	7 Teatime concert - Woodwind and Brass - 4.45pm	8 Drama - Year 10 iGCSE scripted performance (7-9pm)	9 GCSE Music Emsemble Recording- all day Lower Sixth Politics Trip

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

Term Dates 2023/24

The term dates for 2023/2024 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

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Year 7 have had a busy end to the term with many of them involved in the Carol Concert as well as taking part in the final house events of the year such as House Rugby, House Hockey and House Rowing. It was great to see them enjoy the Christmas jumper day and Christmas lunch too! It was fantastic to have over half the year group support our Festive Film Fundraiser last week with Home Alone and the tuck shop. Year 7 raised £301.50 which is an amazing total for the two school charities, Nottinghamshire Mind and TheirWorld. The luxury hot chocolates were a firm favourite amongst Year 7. Thank you to the Year 12 prefects who helped with promoting and running the event.

All of the teachers in the Year 7 team were very impressed with the Internet Safety Campaigns that the students worked on this half-term and many of them received distinctions for these. An extra well done to Jannat, Rose, Neha, Tanvi, Anoushka, Taha, Henry, Mani, James and Johann as they stood out to the staff and received an extra prize for their work.

A number of Year 7 students have over 50 distinctions from this term. Well done to Victoria (7A), Alexander (7B), Hollie (7C), Bluebelle (7C), Tomisin (7C), Rhys (7C), Lavanya (7C), Rosie (7C), Katherine (7C), Charlotte (7D), Kunarathan (7E), Abi (7E) and Neha (7E).

We hope that Year 7 have a relaxing and fun Christmas break and we look forward to seeing them all recharged and ready for 2024 and the Spring term.

Head of Year 8 - Dr Matthew Lakin

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As ever, we remain impressed by the students' maturity, mutual support for one another, and the sense of purpose they bring to their life and learning. There have been a whole range of sporting, musical, drama and other achievements and it has been great to see so many students taking part. We look forward to seeing the Year 8s using these activities to get their Values badges this year. The students who have achieved the highest number of distinctions are: Kayode A (8E) with 56 distinctions each, Hattie S (8E) with 54 distinctions, Sophie B (8E) with 54 distinctions

The students above are role models for all to look up to: well done Kayode, Hattie, and Sophie!

One of the hallmarks of Christmas is charity: I have been simply overawed by the positive reaction of Year 8 to the Year 8 Christmas Charity Appeal. Year 8 have donated over 80 boxes of goodies to a local Nottingham-based charity – Sewa Day Nottingham - for the vulnerable in the local community. We are grateful to them and their generous and thoughtful parents. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone in Year 8 and we look forward to seeing you/them all in the New Year. Cheers, Matthew

Head of Year 9 - Ms Marquez-Godoy

9

As the term reaches its conclusion, it is wonderful to be able to reflect on the many achievements of Year 9.

We have, firstly, been delighted to celebrate the success of the following students, who achieved the highest number of distinctions for excellence this term: Arvind, Jasper D, Tom C, Tanish, Grace, Ara, Rumaysah, Emma, Eva, Ben B-B, Khushi. It is wonderful to see how they have risen to the challenge of the new academic year already.

It has also been fantastic to see how the year group have enjoyed cocurricular life this year: well done to everyone who took part in lunchtime clubs, house competitions, cross-country, hockey and rugby. A special congratulations must also go to Tom F for representing the UK Lions U14 hockey team this past weekend in Malaga.

Finally, we wish to thank every student who took part in our empathy and kindness challenge this term. The 'compliments jar' in the Year 9 office proved very popular, with the most compliments received by Daniel R, Amith, Chris E and Andrew. It warmed our hearts to read about such sincere acts of kindness from our students, with our favourite being the note which told of a student listening to her peer 'when no one else would.' It is so clear that Year 9 value each other for their kindness and we will look to build on this in the Spring term.

We wish you all a wonderful and restful break, and will look forward to welcoming Year 9 back in January.

Head of Year 10 - Mr Paul Allison

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Year 10 have had another busy couple of weeks in school, with so many co-curricular activities taking place during the week, weekends and evenings. This is a huge commitment that the students make week in and week out and they should be congratulated for this.

Last week, a number of year 10 students took part in the school musical, 'Chicago' They performed over three nights for family, friends and staff and also attended many hours of rehearsals, including some Sundays. Some had roles in the play, others played in the orchestra and some were part of the production team. Congratulations to: - Lucy M, Jasmiya A, Zara C, Eron D, Finley R, Leo S, Jack A, Benedict H, Edward M. Elodie M, Hukam S, Alex H, Nathan C and Charlie M.

A huge congratulations also to the musicians in year 10 who performed in the Autumn Concert in front of family members.

Year 10 has also had a busy period of sports fixtures and many of them have also taken part in the Netball and Rugby House competitions. Congratulations to the year 10 Mellers team for winning the rugby.

In the Classroom, year 10 has started a new PSHE topic on 'Exploring Influences' and has offered mature and meaningful discussions around the topic of 'Gambling' and its effects.

I would like to wish all the students and their families a happy and healthy Christmas.

Mr Allison

Head of Year 11-13 - Mr David Gillett

11
to
13

It has been lovely over the last two weeks to see so many familiar faces returning to visit the School. We have loved hearing at events such as the ON's sport matches and exam certificate collection for Year 13 how well they have been settling into university life and enjoying the challenges of new cities, courses and jobs. Our current students have this term hopefully made memories which they will carry with them beyond their time at the High School. The talent on display in Chicago was absolutely amazing, showcasing what a wide range of gifts student in 11-13 posses, from technical support to tap-dancing there is definitely more substance to our students than the 'razzle dazzle' that Billy Flynn boasts of! Topping the term off was the fitting and festive carol concert which was enjoyed by all. We look ahead to Year 13 returning to their mock exams and another busy term for students across all year groups, but we very much hope everyone finds time to rest, reconnect and recharge over the Christmas holiday.

A Level PE Curriculum Visit to St George's Park – PFA Centre of excellence



On Monday 18th December the year 12 A level PE students attended a practical session at St George's Park as part of their A level syllabus. The students took part in a Strength and Conditioning session, including speed analysis using timing gates. They then used the Fitness Suite to do a series of profiling on aspect of fitness and fitness testing. These included the Nordic machine (hamstring strength) vertical jump (leg power) and the Peak Power 6 test (Cycle ergometers) The students then used the Hydrotherapy suite to look at contrast therapy using ice baths and hot tubs. The students were also lucky enough to have a guided tour of some of the elite facilities that the England men and women teams use, including a replica Wembley pitch that is prepared the same way as the real one, even the grass is cut to the same length.

Young Enterprise news

Congratulations to all 3 teams, CorKraft, Screen Savers and Fleurish for getting their business ideas off the ground this term. All 3 teams have been successful in selling in the run up to Xmas and are busy diversifying for the Spring term.



Live Vacancies

We currently have the following opportunities to join our team

Head Chef
Teacher of Spanish

[Click here for more details](#)

ISMLA Success

Earlier in the Autumn term, the Modern Foreign Language's department asked students to participate in a Creative Writing competition run by ISMLA (Independent Schools Modern Languages Association). Within each language (French, German and Spanish), there were a choice of three titles and students had to answer the brief as indicated in the target language, respecting the word count (250-300 words). Successful pieces of writing had to demonstrate: Creativity and imagination, Engagement with the target language culture and, Linguistic ability appropriate to the year group. The judges were not looking for perfection, but entries needed to be comprehensible and engaging, rather than overly complex or perfectly accurate. No native speaker entries were allowed. Students were keen to participate in this competition and so before deciding on which entries were sent off to the national competition, we had an internal competition where the Modern Languages team decided on what they thought were the best entries.

We sent off entries at Key Stage Three, GCSE and A-level and on Thursday, 30th November, we heard back from the organiser at ISMLA regarding our successes. We had two national winners and two highly commended.

Spanish GCSE: Priya M – NATIONAL WINNER
German KS3: Ascanio A – NATIONAL WINNER
French KS3: Daisy M – HIGHLY COMMENDED
German A level: Alexandra A – HIGHLY COMMENDED

These students have performed exceptionally well and to illustrate this, it is interesting to consider the titles which they answered below. They were competing against some magnificent opposition and so their success is even more commendable.

Priya answered the following question:

You are visiting an art gallery with your friends. You find this painting by Salvador Dalí in 1936 called "Premonición de la Guerra Civil". You and your friend's reactions are completely different. Express both points of view.

Ascanio and Alexandra answered the question:

Write a short story beginning with the words: "This wasn't supposed to happen" ("Das hätte nicht passieren sollen")

And, Daisy, a Year 7 student produced an excellent response to the following task:

Going around an art gallery you find yourself in front of this sculpture created in 1904 by Auguste Rodin, "Le Penseur", How did you react? What are your thoughts? Express your reaction in whatever way you prefer.

We are delighted with the outcomes and could not be prouder of our students!
CREATIVITY, EXCELLENCE, INDIVIDUALITY, CURIOSITY



Fitness Suite update - Mr A. Drummond

We have had over 1880 visits to the Fitness Suite this term outside of PE and Games lessons. This is around 30 more visits compared to last year and around 660 more than in December 2021! It's wonderful to see such fantastic numbers and clearly, our pupils relish the chance to come in and train regularly. The following pupils have received awards for their commitment to athletic development and they have also demonstrated great leadership and teamwork skills by training alongside and helping their peers. Oliver B (Year 13), Sannlia H (Year 10), Niamh C (Year 10), Rahul J (Year 10), Evan L (Year 9), Hattie S (Year 8), George A (Year 8), Sahil G (Year 8).

Thank you to Year 12 Prefects Shivam B, Omar A, and Alex B who have been providing support during Year 8 Fitness Training sessions. It's great to have positive role models in a gym environment and these three have certainly helped to create a wonderful training culture amongst the year group!



Year 12 Prefects with Sahil and George

Warwick Schools Annual Swimming Gala

On Thursday 30th November, we took a team of our best swimmers to Warwick Schools annual swimming gala.

We had some fantastic results including individual medals for Abi A, Sofia C, Eddie B and Zack H.

The U14 boys team smashed the competition winning their age group.

Overall, a great day of fast swims from all, NHS team spirit and smiles all round! We are looking forward to the next swimming gala to take home some more medals.



Tom F Away with UK Lions Hockey Team

Congratulations to Tom F, Year 9, who is currently away with the UK Lions Hockey team. He was selected for the UK team a few months ago, and has been away in Malaga this weekend.

[Click here](#) for a link to the UK Lions Twitter feed!



Check out the 360 tour of the Wellbeing Centre [here!](#)



Clemmie's Tennis Success

Clemmie has been playing tennis on the regional and national tour this term. She competed in the National Indoor Championships at half term and has been playing for the Midlands after that including reaching the semi finals at Nottingham Trent in December. She played for Nottinghamshire u12s earlier in the season too!



Congratulations to Niamh (YR7) who has made it the U12 County Nottinghamshire Hockey team!



Ben and Elise in YR6, have both been representing U12A throughout this Rugby and Hockey Season. It has been fantastic to see their contributions and developments!



Well done to Cora, Helena and Ayda, fantastic running at Berry Hill. Keep it up!



**Old Nottinghamians Cross Country
– Saturday 16th December –
Wollaton Park**

The annual ON's v School Cross Country race took place at Wollaton Park on Saturday 16th December. There was a great turnout from the school and ON community and the weather stayed fine, with sunshine for the runners and spectators to enjoy. There was the usual mince pies and hot chocolate after the race and the annual raffle.

Conditions under foot were soft with the heavy rain fall leading up to the race, so it was not a day to set records. However, the race winner did set a record by winning the race for a third time in three years. J Greenhalgh triumphed yet again but he could not help the school retain the trophy as the ON's won with team on count back. The silver medal was won by W Trease (ON) and the bronze medal by C Prestwich.



Journalism Club News



The Journalism Club has been running a Christmas card competition this year. [Click here](#) for the entries.

The Waverley

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

Biology Photography Competition 2023

It is with great pleasure that I can announce the results of the Nottingham High School Biology Photography Competition 2023, which ran from Biology Week in October until last Friday. As always, the students (and staff) were challenged to submit an image that celebrated the biological world. There were so many fantastic entries, the judging never gets any easier! The winners are listed below, well done to all of our photographers:

Key Stage 3

WINNER – Daisy M, year 7 GCB – ‘shall I take flight’
 RUNNER-UP – Samantha C, year 9 HGB – ‘contemplative sky’

Key Stage 4

WINNER – Leah G, year 10 OCH – ‘vaporous beings’
 RUNNER-UP – James S, year 10 GCB – ‘road to glory’

Key Stage 5

WINNER – Seth D, year 12 AMS – ‘devouring replacement’
 RUNNER-UP – Kaavya V, year 12 AMD – ‘burst of colour’

Staff

WINNER – Mr Woodward – ‘Σφήκες/The Wasps’
 SECOND – Mrs Sneddon – ‘mushroom umbrellas’
 THIRD – Mrs Nicholson – ‘midnight summer blues’

The photographs can be viewed [here](#) (scroll to the bottom for this year’s):

Mr Duckett



PHYSIO SESSIONS

Following the opening of the Wellbeing Centre, we’re happy to announce the start of Physio sessions as part of the wider range of services the Centre offers to both students and parents.

Run by experienced physiotherapist Alex Lamb from [Coach House Physio](#), sessions will take place between 1pm and 5pm on Wednesdays. Students will be able to attend sessions during lesson time or after school, with parental permission. Please note that parents must be able to attend these sessions in person alongside their child (including those over the age of 18).

Each 40-minute session, which will include assessment and treatment, costs £45. Mr Lamb also works with private health insurance providers.

Parents and staff are also welcome to use this service at the same rate of £45 per 40-minute session. If these sessions take place after 4pm, parents are welcome to keep children in our wrap-around care until the end of your appointment. All appointments can be booked in [advance via this form](#). If you have any questions about this service, please contact the Wellbeing Centre Administrator, Dan Scott, at scott.d@nottinghamhigh.co.uk.

Christmas bake off!

2023 CHRISTMAS BAKEOFF - 14TH DECEMBER



This year's Christmas bake off was so exciting, it was amazing to see all the different entries.

Prizes were awarded to one baker in each category, these categories included; Christmas, environmental, Multi-cultural, most creative, the most technical and a star baker.

During the morning of the bake off, I know that I wasn't the only person waiting on the results with impatience, from 8:00 - 8:30 the food room was filling up with delicious looking cakes, each delivered by excited pupils of all ages

After period 2, bakers and their friends rushed to the food room, both nervous and excited for the results... The judging had taken place during lessons by Mr Fear and Mrs Simpson, and prizes were laid out on the counter.

Firstly, Mr Fear announced some nominations for the different values awards, the winners of these were Abi Cusack for excellence, Shay Johal for individuality, Pia Shah for curiosity, Arthur Fossey Taylor for empathy and Lavanya Jain for Respect!

Finally there were the bake off winners of each category, Rosie Wight for the Christmas category, Stephen de Brito for the environmental theme, Phoebe James for the multicultural theme, Varsha Jeyakanthan for the most technical, Grace Berry for the most creative and me, Ashana De silva for the star baker.

This year I won the star baker, I made a chocolate cake with chocolate fudge filling. My cake was decorated with the idea of a winter wonderland so I created an ice rink with chocolate sticks, fondant and cola straws. I also made a gingerbread path, surrounded by buttercream trees and leading to Santa's grotto, which is also made of gingerbread! Just outside the grotto is Santa, and inside is a pile of colourful fondant presents. I chose the winter wonderland theme because it reminded me of a Santa Land I visited when I was younger!





News From PSHE

On Monday January 15, BACP psychotherapist & founder of M-Path, Chris Hemmings, will be delivering empathy workshops to Year 9 students.

Pupils will be encouraged to engage with the power of empathy, its role in society and how it can help to create space for individuals to be who they really are. Attendees will be challenged to recognise the importance they all play in creating an open, empathetic, communicative environment where every person feels seen, heard and respected.

At 5:30 on the same day, Chris will be offering a session to parents who would like to find out more about his work. Chris will focus on how we as a society can more effectively engage boys in discussions about mental health, violence and misogyny. By meeting with boys with an understanding of their reality, and with empathy and compassion, we can call them in to the challenging work that will be beneficial to them and their peers.

Please indicate your interest by filling in the form here If you would like to attend this workshop.

PSHE Topics for the next half term:

Year 7 Diversity

Diversity, prejudice, and bullying, Classics project

Year 8 Discrimination

Discrimination in all its forms, including: racism, religious discrimination, disability, discrimination, sexism, homophobia, biphobia and transphobia

Year 9 Respectful relationships

Families and parenting, healthy relationships, conflict resolution, and relationship changes

Year 10 Exploring influence

The influence and impact of drugs, gangs, role models and the media

Year 11 Communication in relationships

Personal values, assertive communication, relationship challenges and abuse



FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

I am proud to announce that this year as a school we raised a whopping grand total of **£ 5801.02** for our two school charities. I want to say a massive thank you to all those who were a part of making that total so big. A thank you to all those who donated at whole school events, non-school uniform days and attended our quiz night. And another thank you to all those who made all these fundraisers possible; from those who arranged the collections on non-uniform days, informed parents, donated, attended or helped run the quiz night the list goes on! Without the contribution from every individual who played a role in these fundraisers no matter how big or small, that total wouldn't be so large without you, so thank you. Both charities that received our support over the past year have and continue to do amazing work in our community. Base 51 provides support in many different forms to young people ages 11-25 in the Nottinghamshire area. They provide counselling, trauma support, run a youth club and provide practical support (showers, laundry, kitchen access) amongst many other things. Please visit their website here or give them a follow on social media, to find out more about what they are up to (Instagram, Facebook.) First Steps ED, a local charity that supports those affected by eating disorders - they work to support the individual as well as the families and friends. They have recently had an exciting merge with Talk ED, a charity that focusses on development of training and awareness packages for schools, businesses and professionals. Again, please visit their website here or give them a follow on social media to find out more and show your support (Instagram, Facebook). So, a massive thank you again for all your donations and support, it will have made a big impact for a lot of people.



Many thanks, Martha Christensen (Last years head girl!)



Guru Nanak Mission



A message from The Guru Nanak's Mission:

Dear all at Nottingham High,

We would just like to pass on our appreciation for all the things you do for Guru Nanak's Mission (GNM)

From making the mains, handing out toiletries to the vulnerable in the town centre and donating toys for our toy appeal each year. We know this must take a lot of organising and your time.

Yesterday was our big pack, where we packed our food parcels along with toys. There was 150 food parcels & over 200 toys for children.

A special thank you to the children and their parents. Their kindness, especially with the toy appeal, will bring some relief and most definitely lots of smiles to children this Christmas.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas break and look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Best wishes

The GNM Team.



Guru Nanak's Mission – Christmas 2023

On Monday 11th December, Y11 Community Action volunteered with Guru Nanak's mission to provide food for the homeless. Guru Nanak's Mission is a community project set up to feed the homeless and anyone else in need of a meal. The project was inspired by the teachings of the first Sikh Guru, Guru Nanak Dev Ji. The teaching of 'langar' is the basis of the project, teaching that there is equality between everyone regardless of their race, gender, age, or social status.

Thanks to our Year 8 students who cooked up an amazing 75 portions of Bolognese during their food club earlier in the day, when we arrived at the Gurdwara, all we needed to do was heat this up and cook some spaghetti and rice pudding. Working in the Gurdwara kitchen was hot and tiring, but there was an amazing sense of teamwork between volunteers. We then helped to package up the food portions into boxes, ready to be taken into town and served, but first, we also enjoyed a helping of spaghetti Bolognese for our own dinner, and we can say that Year 8 did a fantastic job!

After this, we transported the food into town, and set up outside the M&S store which is next to St Peter's church in town. As people gathered to collect some food, we also gave them toiletries that had been donated during the school's Guru Nanak appeal; and a Christmas gift or chocolate box. It was wonderful to be a part of the amazing team that regularly give up their own time to volunteer in this way. The whole experience is so unique, and it feels so special when you see how grateful people are for your work. It encourages us to never take what we have for granted, and really shows how important voluntary work is.

Anna R & Harry S, Year 11





Sixth Form Toiletries Appeal for Guru Nanak Mission

This winter, the food department has decided to support the 'Guru Nanak's Mission' charity. Guru Nanak's Mission's core goal is to not only alleviate hunger but also to create a sense of community and belonging. However, food provision is at the heart of what this brilliant organisation does as they strongly believe that no one should go hungry especially during these harsh Winter conditions and they therefore regularly provide free meals to the homeless and vulnerable in Nottingham.

To help support this cause, a dedicated team of sixth form volunteers teamed up with the food department to help raise awareness for this vital cause by leading a toiletries campaign for the homeless. Due to the sheer generosity of the school community, we were able to create over 90 personal hygiene packages - consisting solely of donations - which the community action team then distributed to the homeless the following week.

It has been an absolute privilege to support such a worthwhile charity and we look forward to continuing with this fantastic project in the new year.



Akhil B Year 12



German Christmas Market

My account of the Deutscher Weihnachtsmarkt (German Christmas Market) is a memorable experience. I had been looking forward to it for weeks. As one of the salespeople, I was supplied with a mini bank of chocolate coins to provide change to my customers. After I finished my setup, I was unexpectedly granted a swell of popularity with my well packaged bags of Lebkuchen (German Gingerbread) and my very good bartering skills. I sold all my produce quite quickly and then went round the market for myself, enjoying the presentation of many dishes, especially the Marzipankartoffeln which had amazing texture and taste, and a top recommendation of mine. I personally thought it would be a lot less popular, but the popularity benefited me, as a seller of Lebkuchen, as I was able to make a lot of chocolate coins.

Rhys H, Y7



The German Christmas Market was amazing! When we started planning, I decided to make Zimtsterne - cinnamon star biscuits. I started making the poster and found out all sorts of different facts. Did you know that allegedly, in the late-16th century, a Roman emperor tried them? Or that people used to decorate Christmas trees with them? At home, I baked some nut-free Zimtsterne, which tasted delicious. Normally they are made from almonds, but I used oats and gingerbread to make 2 trays of Zimtsterne. On the day of the market, everyone was given chocolate coins to purchase different German foods- there were so many, and it was lots of fun! Everyone had a chance to try everything, and it was all really tasty! There were even sheets so everyone could ask for and buy the food in German.

Frohe Weihnachten!
Alex J-K



The 12 Words of Christmas Competition 2023 The Winners



Snowflakes danced
Hearts warmed, love shared –
Christmas magic filled the air.

Varsha 8A

Blue lights flashed;
no tree was adorned.
Baubles, not snow,
crunched underfoot.

Mrs Turney

Honourable Mention
Harry 7A

Thank you to everyone who took part.

News From the Music Department

Congratulations to all who performed in the Autumn Concert on 28th November – Concert Band, Big Band, Senior Orchestra, Sinfonia, Senior Percussion Ensemble, Senior Saxophones, The Jet Quintet, Y7 Quintet, Senior Strings, Chamber Choir, Lower School Pop Choir, Upper School Pop Choir, Flute Choir, Lower Brass Ensemble, Lower School Big Band, Lower School Concert Band. The audience were treated to a depth and breadth of genres and ensembles, and the standard was so high from everyone; it was a very enjoyable evening.

A huge thank you to all our Choirs for their wonderfully festive performances in the Carol Service on Tuesday 19th December. The event took place at St Mary's Church and was a lovely way to end the term. The Chamber Choir sang beautifully, and their rendition of In the Bleak Midwinter was especially moving. The Community Choir joined the Chamber Choir for a rousing rendition of The Holly & the Ivy, and it was great to see parents, staff and ONs taking part in this. The Lower School and Upper School Pop Choirs also sang brilliantly, and the finale of Carol of the Bells, with all singers giving it their all, was a joyful experience. Please [Click here](#) for the Autumn Concert album and [here](#) for the Christmas Carol Service.

Instruments

Please remove your instruments from the store cupboard in the Music School by Wednesday lunchtime and take them home over the holiday. The store cupboard will be cleaned and it will help our cleaners to have the room as clear as possible, please.

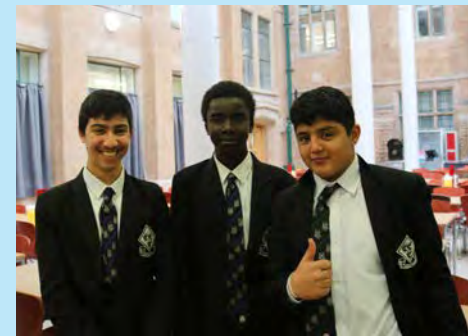


Community Action Christmas Lunch

On Tuesday, I had the privilege of volunteering at the Community Christmas Lunch. Serving as a waiter, I not only took and served orders but also became a friendly face for the guests. Engaging in conversations, I found that the guests were happy to have someone to talk to. Some of the stories I was told were very interesting. Beyond serving meals, I assisted guests with their bags and provided umbrellas, ensuring they navigated the rain with ease. The Christmas spirit was prominent throughout the lunch, with smiles all around and laughs being heard. I learnt the importance of human connection during these festive periods, and how valuable simple conversations can be to others. Serving as a waiter also taught me the importance of patience and attentiveness.

Overall, the Christmas Community Lunch was an eye opening experience and was also very fun.

Dawood M, Y10



Community Action Christmas Appeals

We would like to express our immense thanks for the generous outpouring of support received in response to the three Christmas Community Action appeals: one for the Bestwood and Bulwell Foodbank, another for the Radford Care Group, and the third for the Guru Nanak Toy Bank. Each and every donation, regardless of its size, holds immense value to us. It is with great honour that we pass on these contributions to our local community, where their impact will undoubtedly be deeply appreciated. Wishing everyone a joyous Christmas and a prosperous New Year from all of us at Community Action!



Careers News - December 2023

Thank you so much to everyone who supported our Careers Week. We had 87 guests in to school for various talks and events - a 40% increase on last year - and it was wonderful to see the students engaging with so many professionals.

We know that students are starting to contact professionals looking for work experience opportunities etc, so please remember to keep us informed at school if you are supporting any students. You can always copy me into any emails at auterson.r@nottinghamhigh.co.uk and I'll make sure the right people know what you are arranging.

Rebecca Auterson, Head of Careers

I just wanted to thank you and all the volunteers for the careers week events. It was a great experience and widened my perspective to a range of different jobs that I wouldn't have considered in the past. This was ideal as I hadn't completely made up my mind in terms of my career path.

It was really helpful to speak to so many universities about different courses

I enjoyed speaking to different people and learning about new careers I'd not considered before.

Thank you so much for giving up your time to come and speak to us, I had a lovely time listening to you and it was interesting hearing about your job and what it involves.

Thank you so much for organising these events. I feel really energised after speaking to so many different people and more confident about my future plans.

It was really good to hear about different career pathways such as apprenticeships as there are new routes in that I didn't know much about before.

Thank you for coming and giving us so much useful information!

I learned about careers I'd never really considered before.

The students were buzzing in my lesson after the Careers Fair and had really enjoyed the chance to talk to so many different people.

Top 3 career favourites with Year 7s



Morrisby

In order to support 16+ students building their professional networks, we have created a new LinkedIn page and will be sharing opportunities and advice here. If you wish to highlight any opportunities your own organisation is offering, then please join the group and share the information!

Students must not connect directly with any school staff member via social media and we ask that if any students connect with you via LinkedIn that you drop us an email to let us know. We are aiming to strike a balance between supporting them to make use of LinkedIn and also ensuring that professional boundaries and safeguarding requirements are observed!



NOTTINGHAM
HIGH SCHOOL

LinkedIn

Careers Week follow-up

Open days, weblinks and **offer codes** from our Careers Week partners

University Open Days

Start putting dates in diaries and signing up via the university websites to secure your place. Open days for 2024 are starting to be advertised.

[Cardiff Metropolitan University](#)

[Cardiff University](#)

[Lancaster University](#)

[Loughborough University](#) - Fri 28 & Sat 29 June 2024, Fri 20 & Sat 21 Sept 2024

[Nottingham Trent University](#) - Sat 20 Jan 2024, Sat 23 March 2024

[Newcastle University](#)

[Oxford Brookes University](#) - Sat 17 Feb 2024

[University of Bath](#) - Fri 14 June & Sat 15 June 2024, Sat 7 September 2024

[University of Birmingham](#)

[University of Derby](#) - Sat 20 Jan 2024

[University of Leeds](#)

[University of Leicester](#)

[University of Nottingham](#) - Fri 28 June & Sat 29 June 2024

[University of Sheffield](#)

[University of Warwick](#)



Holiday Courses, Work Experience and Gap Years



[We-Activate](#) 10% discount code for camps and courses is **NHCL10**; valid until end of March 2024

[Investin Education](#) 15% discount code for summer experiences is **SUMMER15A** valid until 31 December.

[Springpod](#)
[Travelteer](#)
[Yipiyap](#)

Apprenticeships & World of Work

[Army](#)
[Morrisby](#)
[Nelson's Law](#)
[RAF](#)

Overseas Opportunities

[Aspire USA](#)
[The University Guys](#)



SCHOOL NEWS GALLERY



Santa at NHS



Staff vs Students netball



Christmas Bake Off Winners



Autumn Concert



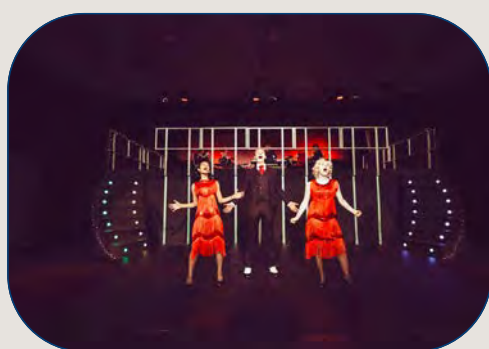
Wreath Making in Gardening Club



Year 9 Reading Club



A Level Trip to the University of Oxford



The fantastic cast of Chicago



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

Easy Fundraising 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 106 registered users who have raised over £3,500 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 click on the [link](#) and 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 xeat@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.