



# THE MERLE

NOTTINGHAM HIGH SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



15TH MARCH 2024 - ISSUE 46

## WHAT'S INSIDE

[click on the links below](#)

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

[page 2](#)

### YEAR GROUP UPDATES

[page 3](#)

### SCHOOL NEWS

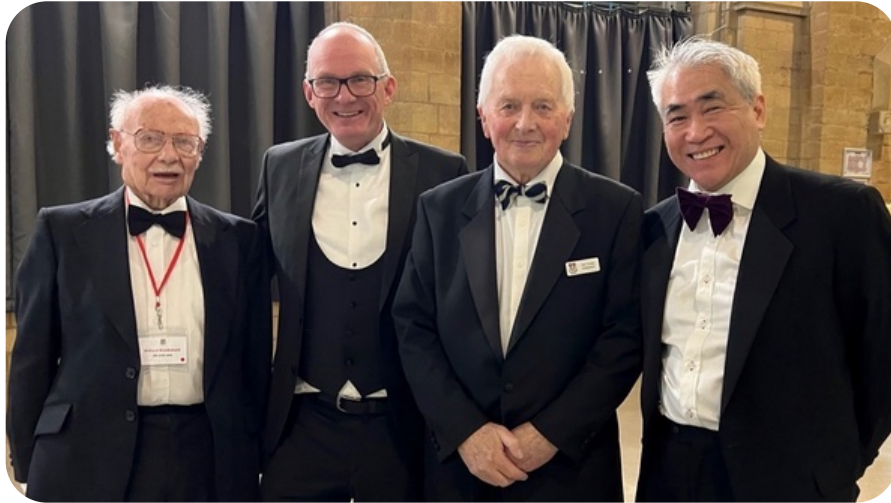
[page 4-9](#)

### CAREERS UPDATE

[page 12](#)

### PARENT NOTICES

[page 14](#)



## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

Last weekend I attended the ON Society dinner here at the School and had the great pleasure of meeting Richard Brooksbank aged 97 pictured to my left above. He attended the School from 1938 to 1942 and was telling me all about the High School during the Second World War. In particular, he told me of a day when a bus arrived full of men looking really tired and bedraggled and it turned out these were men who had been rescued from the beaches at Dunkirk. It really brought home to me the long history of the School and it was fantastic at the same event to see some of our current students doing such a fantastic job supporting our catering team at the event. It is amazing to think that some of those waiting on would be at such a dinner in 70 years time!

This week we submitted our bid to run a school in Singapore which we hope will bring in an income that we can invest back here in Nottingham. All being well we will be invited to an interview before the end of term and then should hear fairly quickly after that as to whether we have been successful.

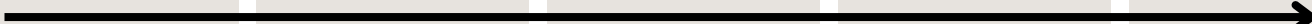
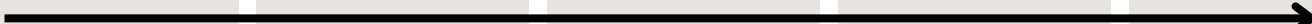
Yesterday saw one of our regular governors' meetings. The focus in this meeting was on the future strategy for our Infant and Junior School which plays such an important role in the overall success of the School. We also heard from pupils in both the Junior School and the Senior School, hearing directly from students is now a regular item in each of the governors' meetings.

The music department has been really busy in the past couple of weeks and I am very much looking forward to next week's Spring Concert. Do look at all the photos in this newsletter of the recent events.

Finally, just a reminder that if your child is leaving at the end of this academic year you need to give a full term's notice and thus must let us know before the start of the Summer Term. This enables us to plan our staffing and budgets accordingly. There is though no need to do this if your child is in Year 13.

Kevin Fear (Headmaster)

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
18	19 Drama - Year 7 & 8 TR - Shrek trip (6.30pm)	20 1513 - Yr 10/11	21 Concert rehearsals (8.30 - 1.00pm) Music: Spring Concert (7pm) - Albert Hall House Drama	22 Drama - Year 10 Frantic Assembly (all day) <b>ON Hockey - Highfields (10.00) SAT 23RD</b> <b>DofE Silver walking and gold Canoe(NHS) SUN 24TH</b>
25	26 CRY Screening Day	27 END OF TERM (4.00pm)	Ski Trip departs - Canada  Gold DofE Training residential Languages - Year 7 trip departs	29 Good Friday Bank Holiday  Gold DofE Training residential
1 Bank Holiday	2	3 SCHOOL HOLIDAY	4	5
 <b>Support Staff in Tuesday - Friday</b>				
8 SCHOOL HOLIDAY	9	10	11	12
 <b>Support Staff in Monday - Friday</b>				
15 Inset Day	16 Term Begins Year 10/12 exams start	17 Year 8 Parents' Evening (Remote)	18	19

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

7

Year 7 had a PSHE session led by the charity Equation called Healthy and Healthy Relationships this week. We were very impressed by their contributions and excellent questions during the session. They have also been very engaged in our topics on Health and Puberty this half-term and we have been impressed by their maturity in these sessions as it does involve talking about some more challenging topics. We also have a session coming up soon with our Head of Learning Support, Mr Glarvey, on revision. We know a number of them have found revision techniques that work well for them for end of topic tests but some still struggle in this area. It will be a useful session in providing them with top tips and a variety of revision techniques.

Finally, well done to Harry L (7A) who recently found out he has come 2nd nationally in the Oxford University Computing Challenge. This is amazing news as there were 120,000 students in his category that originally entered!

## Head of Year 8 - Dr Matthew Lakin

8

On Friday 1st March, the Year 8s took part in the JCB Machine of the Future Challenge on their Activity Day. This involved Y8s working in groups making, designing, creating, and problem-solving a JCB machine of the future. The task involved group work, each led by a project manager, and each group produced detailed, imaginative, and thorough plans for their machine. A key aspect of the brief was to consider the environmental sustainability of their machine, and how it could improve the lives of future generations. The day concluded with a presentation, where each group defended and explained their proposed machine, and the external speakers commended the articulacy and verbal sophistication of the Y8s. Unfortunately, we cannot all be winners; the winning team, Team 18 – Sophie B, Mahd J, Hattie J, Ives L, Ethan M, and Naly N – were absolutely outstanding as they engaged the audience, thought creatively and inventively about their machine, and most closely, of all the teams, complied with the original research brief. I was hugely impressed with the Y8's engagement on the day.

## Head of Year 9 - Ms Marquez-Godoy

9

Year 9 have enjoyed a busy week, including their remote parents' evening. We hope that the evening was informative, and that you were able to conduct any necessary conversations – particularly in regards to Year 10 options.

Over the past week, Year 9 have enjoyed a number of successes, with students competing in Netball at the weekend, winning against Mount St. Mary's on Saturday and reaching third place in the U15 tournament on Saturday. Furthermore, Clea S. continues to excel in Showjumping, representing Nottingham High School at the UK Schools competition at 1.1m height with an all clear 12 jump round.

Finally, Year 9 attended an assembly last week about the importance of upholding the school's standards of behaviour. Please do take the opportunity to discuss this with your child, as it is essential that they do not allow their standards of behaviour, appearance and effort to slip in this second half of the academic year.



**NOTTINGHAM**  
HIGH SCHOOL

### UK Mathematics Olympiad

The maths department would like to congratulate William Harwood and Josh Zhang who achieve a distinction and Merit respectively on the second round of the British Mathematics Olympiad. This is an exceptional achievement for both. On the strength of his result Will has been invited to attend the International Olympiad training and selection Camp at Trinity College, Cambridge. Will is the first student to attain this accolade from the School in many years; it is an impressive feat and brings great credit to himself individually and to the school collectively.



### CANSAT COMPETITION

On Monday 4th March a very excited group of year 12 students set off for the CANSAT regional finals. The CANSAT competition is new to the school this year and run by the Design and Technology department, teams have to design and build a satellite the size of a drinks can that is capable of measuring different parameters, like temperature, altitude, pressure etc. Not only must their satellites be able to transmit back all the data for a live feed, but they must survive the 15g it will experience on launch and then return safely to earth without damage. Both teams had a successful day with textbook launches and recoveries (even if some teams had to walk further and negotiate a stream to find it!) and both managed to receive some data from their satellites. Both teams did the school and the department proud, and are already looking forward to the next developments.



### News From DofE

This years DofE expedition season has recently started with a full day of training for the Bronze award cohort in school on Sunday March 3rd, where 91 students covered the following: First aid, menu planning and safe use of Trangia stoves, Map and Compass, they also completed their route planning for their Practice and Qualifying expeditions onto their groups maps and route cards, in readiness for their expeditions.

The Silver award cohort spent all day last Sunday hiking and navigating around Sherwood Pines country park, Clipstone and the surrounding area.

The 63 of them all did brilliantly and coped really positively with the constant rain, lots of mud and cold temperatures.

Thank you to the following staff, who gave their Sunday up to get wet and muddy:

Mrs Riley, Mrs Spedding, Mrs Mackness, Mrs Andrews, Mr Hughes, Mr Pinkett, Mr Butcher and Mr Hill.

All the students are also currently working on completing their Volunteering, Skill and Physical elements of their relevant award.



### Follow Us on Social Media



Click the links above the follow our social channels for all the latest news and updates

### Update from Development Office

It was our pleasure to welcome over 80 Old Nottinghamians back to the School, last Saturday, for the ON Society Nottingham Dinner.

Our events are a great way to catch up with each other, both personally and professionally, to share stories and memories and to make new ones.

At age 97, Richard Brooksbank (ON 1938-1942) pictured left of Kevin Fear, Headmaster, was the oldest member of our alumni to attend the event.

As a student at the School during the war years, Richard's recollections give a fascinating insight into what it was like when the Army were stationed at Nottingham High School and school life at that time.

We are currently working on a digital archive to record valuable stories for generations of Old Nottinghamians to enjoy, for years to come.



### News from PSHE

#### Visiting Speakers and Parent School

Our students have told us that they enjoy hearing from visiting speakers, and this year we have had more opportunities than ever before to engage with a variety of external providers. For example, this week Year 7 heard from Equation about Healthy Relationships and how to spot unhealthy behaviours within a close friendship or romantic relationship. Next week Year 10 will hear from the Police about the work that their Prevent Team do to reduce the risks of extremist and radicalised behaviour in young people; after half term author Jeffrey Boakye will be delivering a session exploring race and identity to Year 9. We would like to offer complementary sessions as part of the Parent School to support you in your understanding of some of the topics covered by our external specialists. Please fill in the expression of interest form here if you would like to attend these sessions.



### Update From Marketing

After Easter, our Marketing team will be undertaking some general day to day filming of short video clips to capture life at Nottingham High School. This content, which spans all years from EYFS to Sixth Form, will be featured in admissions recruitment videos promoted on our website and social media accounts.

Once we have the filming dates confirmed, we will send an email to all parents with more details. If you would prefer that your child not be photographed during the filming, you can opt out by replying to the email, which will be sent by our Marketing team.





## Women's History Month

Women's History month is an annual celebration that takes place during the month of March. This year, with the support of the History Department's Year 12 students, the school has been celebrating the contributions of ground breaking women throughout British and World History. In the first week of March, all students were treated to an assembly on the importance of Women's History Month and the development of women's football in England. In tutor set this week, students have been hearing about 9 different ground breaking women, chosen and researched by y.12 students, including: Noor Inayat Khan, Olive Morris, Hedy Lamarr, Ching Shih, Sophia Duleep Singh, Mary Anning, Josephine Butler, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu and Sandra Day O'Connor; ahead of a vote on the school's favourite and details of a competition to follow next week.



## Computer Science OUCF Final

The Computer Science department are delighted to share the results of the OUCF final, which took place last week. We had three students who got through to the final, which in itself is an incredible achievement. 80 students from 56 schools took part in the final round of the OUCF. Harry took part in the Juniors category, coming in 2nd place with a incredible score of 64/78. Ives took part in the intermediate age group ending in 9th place overall, he is the youngest in this category so he'll have high hopes for next year! William took part in the Elite age group, where they had a three-way tie for first place with the top students managing to get maximum marks. William came next with a score of 69, (official score of 4th place, but we like to think he came 2nd!) All students get a finalist certificate which is an amazing achievement in its own right as this was from a field of over 400,000 students that started the journey in November's UK Bebras Challenge. As Harry was in the top 3 from in his age group he will be invited to a Prize giving ceremony to be held in Oxford later this year.



## Community Action

As part of the recent Activities Day, Year 9 and 10 Community Action students acted as Teaching Assistants in two local primary schools for the day: Edna G Olds Academy and Huntingdon Academy. Not only was this an excellent opportunity to have an impact on their local community, it also provided students with some excellent work place experience. Dawood and Emma describe their experiences below:

On Friday, I spent Activities Day as a teaching assistant at Edna G Olds Academy. I spent the day helping out Year 6 with their studies. The teacher asked me to help students who were struggling with the work that was given to them, which was mainly preparation for their upcoming exams (SATs). Some of them were quite shy, so it was a bit harder to communicate with some of them. However, nonetheless, they were very kind and welcoming. The highlight of my day was when one of the students explained to me A-level topics, which blew me away. My greatest challenge was communicating with some of the shyer kids, however I was able to overcome this challenge by introducing myself and telling them some funny stories. One skill I developed as a result of the day was my communication and listening skills. Dawood, Year 10.

On Activities Day, I did some individual reading with Year 5 children at Huntingdon Academy for the whole day. I found working with younger children quite fulfilling as, with my aid, they overcame challenges during reading, such as pronunciation issues and punctuation issues, and by the end of their session a lot of them were able to pronounce words correctly. Many of the children met me with a smile on their face, which I found very rewarding. There were many highlights of the day. One of them was reading with one particular child who, after I asked her whether she wanted to read the next chapter, replied with an eager "yes" and continued to read for many more chapters until I regrettably had to stop her.

Another was overhearing a child say I was "really nice" - my biggest compliment of the day. There were no particular challenges - starting out was quite difficult, and I was unsure of how to greet the children, but I soon got into the flow of it. As a result of this day, I have developed, of course, the skill of working with children, but also the skill of communication; I had to think carefully about how to greet each child, and how to seem not intimidating but not frightened either. Overall, it was a tiring but very rewarding experience. Emma, Year 9.

## Update from the Director of Sport



Last week Miss Bray and I were fortunate enough to attend the largest gathering of Directors of Sport in the UK ever at the PADSIS conference in Oxford.

There were multiple internationally recognised speakers to inspire and inform the group, and many things for us to take away.

Two of the presenters have written books recently, James Kerr's book *Legacy*, What the All Blacks can teach us about the business of life, and Dr Daniel Lieberman's (Harvard based Paleoanthropologist) *Exercised: Why something we never evolved to do is healthy and rewarding* are two books well worth a look.

One looks at a cultural influence on behaviours, underlining the importance of knowing who you are and where you come from, the other looks at exercise from an evolutionary point of view and explains why it can be hard to commit to it, but why it is important to do so.

We can all take lessons from the information these authors provide.

## Young Enterprise Success

Corkcraft won Best presentation, Flourish won best Trade Stand and Screensavers won the overall prize and are through to the regional finals in Leicester on 20th May. Congratulations to all of the students who have taken part in YE this year!





### Incredible Horse Riding Success

Clea has won the UK schools competition!  
Jumping at 1.1m height with an all clear  
12 jump round on her horse Millie!

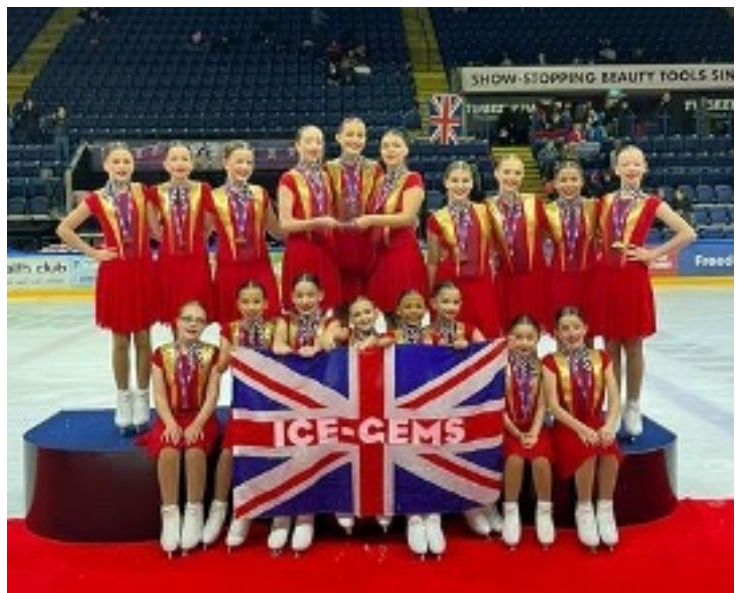


### U13 & U15 DRET Plate Success



### Ice Gems Success

Congratulations to Emma in (Y7) and her Ice Skating team who have become U14 British Champions!



### Choral Festival

On March 6th we were delighted to welcome back Greg Link to work with a number of our vocal groups. The students benefitted from a variety of workshops in which Greg coached them in preparation for the Choral Festival later that evening. The students thoroughly enjoyed the day and learned a lot from the vocal warm ups and exercises which they were able to apply to their performances. The evenings concert was a fantastic insight into the breadth of singing at school and all students performed with excellent musicianship and professionalism. Many thanks to Greg for his work with the students and for also encouraging the audience to join in with the finale group number – a really memorable moment!



### Chamber Music Festival Photo Montage



[Click here for more Choral Music Festival Photos](#)

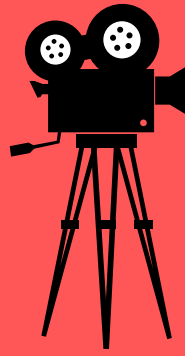


[Click here for more Jazz and Italian Evening Photos](#)



NOTTS HIGH SCHOOL'S GOT TALENT...

# Talent Show



## Details

Date: Tuesday 26th March

Location: Founder Hall

Time: 13.00 - 13.50 over lunchtime

This may extend to two lunchtimes if enough performance interest is shown

### SIGN UP TO PERFORM:

We're looking for any students willing to perform, whether that be singing, rapping, playing instruments, making people laugh, reciting poetry etc.

Please send us a message on the email address below with your chosen act, members performing and yeargroup.

### OR COME AND WATCH:

Tickets will be £2 which you can bring on the day to watch. The show will take place over lunchtime and all of the proceeds will go to the school charities.



ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE EMAIL:

[khanna.g@nottinghamhigh.co.uk](mailto:khanna.g@nottinghamhigh.co.uk)

## GET INVOLVED!

Details on the next page

# YEAR 7 TASTER DAYS 2nd & 23rd May



An action packed day experiencing what life is like at Nottingham High School  
book now to secure your place!

Register online or email [admissions@nottinghamhigh.co.uk](mailto:admissions@nottinghamhigh.co.uk)

Please help spread the word of our upcoming Taster Days - These are for external students currently in Year 5 (aged 9-10) who are looking to join Year 7 in September 2025

# Careers News - March 2023

This is my final careers edit for The Merle so I hope you've found these information pages useful. There are so many possibilities for the future and it can be a challenge for students knowing where to begin with their research. With this in mind, I'm highlighting some of my favourite websites and hope you'll find them helpful too. Next week I'll be joining Morrisby, supporting schools and students across the UK. I've really enjoyed my time at Nottingham High School and hope to bring some of our work to a wider audience in my next role. I wish all our students success in the future and hope they enjoy exploring the wide range of incredible options available to them.

**Mrs Auterson**, Head of Careers



# SCHOOL NEWS GALLERY



Jazz and Italian Night



Y8 Winners CB Machine of the Future Challenge



Y9 Standing up to racism presentations



Y7 Food Club Cooking for Guru Nanak



Win for U14A at the weekend



Y8 Netball training hard after School

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:brearley.za@nottinghamhigh.co.uk).