



THE MERLE

NOTTINGHAM HIGH SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



1ST MARCH 2024 - ISSUE 45

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A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

Thank you to all of you who responded to the questionnaires sent out by the Independent Schools Inspectorate. We are now waiting for the final copy of their report on the School but we were really pleased with the verbal feedback that we received. We will share with you the final report as soon as it is published. It was a busy week but one full of pride in every student who spoke to them and in all of the staff who were seen teaching or were involved in meetings with the inspectors. The character and nature of the School came across very strongly to our visitors and I am certain that you will enjoy reading the final report when it comes. I can only apologise for the quick turnaround on the questionnaires – the timescales are set by the inspectorate but I appreciate that it did not allow everyone to reply.

This week saw the official opening of our Wellbeing Centre and thank you to all those of you who came to support that event and to see our fantastic new facility. Please encourage your children to use the centre as there is something there for them all! The idea that sits behind it is that it is a place where we can build resilience and equip children with the toolkit to cope with life's challenges whenever they occur. Students use the building for a whole range of reasons, for co-curricular clubs, to see the nurse, for some physical activities, to see the staff based there and above all the Oasis Room provides somewhere where they can go just to find a quieter space during their day and we all need that from time to time. It was a great privilege to cut the ribbon to open the centre and I see it as one of the most important projects I have led in my time at the School for there is nothing more important than the wellbeing of all of our students and staff.

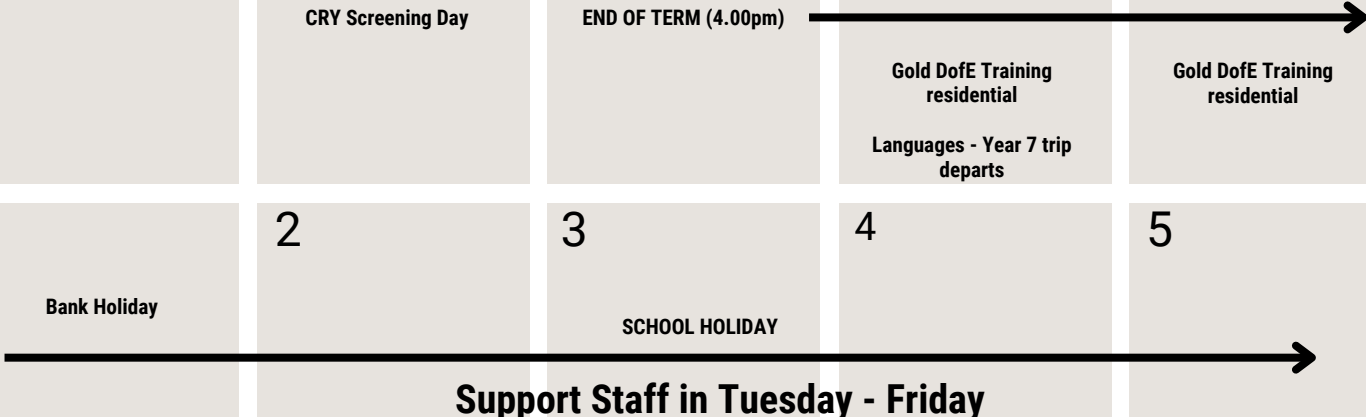
I have also spent time in the last fortnight working with the new Acting Head of the Infant and Junior School Mrs Angharad Simpson. Mrs Bruce left at half-term and so Mrs Simpson has kindly agreed to lead that section of the School alongside her Deputy Head role in charge of our International and Strategic Projects. The Infant and Junior School plays an important role in our overall strategy as a school and I am working closely with Mrs Simpson on the recruitment of a new permanent head whilst at the same time developing strategy for the short-term. We want to focus on how we can make the lives of working parents easier and on a review of our curriculum amongst a number of other ideas.

Finally, we have started work on a new school website and hopefully, this will be with us later this year. Website design and functionality have moved on a great deal since we last did this and so I am excited to see what will develop in the coming months.

Thus, as ever, there is always much to do. Thank you for your continued support,

Kevin Fear (Headmaster)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4 CANSAT regional finals - Lincoln	5 1513 - Yr. 7 (4.15 - 5.00pm) Drama - Year 10 iGCSE scripted performance (7-9pm)	6 Year 8 - Patterdale Parent Meeting(6.30pm) Music - McGegan - Voice (Masterclass) Music - Choral Music Festival (4.45pm)	7 Year 9 Parents' Evening (remote)	8 Netball - U13/U15 DRET Festival (11.20 - 4.30) DofE Silver Nav Training (Sherwood Pines) -SUN 10TH
11	12	13 Young Enterprise Notts county Finals (5.30 - 8.00pm)	14 1513 - Yr 7	15 Drama - London Trip (4.00pm) RETURN SAT Netball: Year 7 Condoover Hall Fri-Sun DofE Gold Canoe Training - SUN 17th
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) ON Hockey - Highfields (10.00) SAT 23RD DofE Silver walking and gold Canoe(NHS) SUN 24TH
25	26 CRY Screening Day	27 END OF TERM (4.00pm)	28 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
				

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

7

Head of Year 7 - Mrs Hollie Neale

Year 7 continue to impress us each week and I was particularly impressed by how they conducted themselves in their lessons and various meetings with inspectors last week. They also had a range of exciting activities last week including an author visit from Alex Foulkes, a non-uniform day for LGBTQ+ and a number of them also helped with decorating the front steps of school for LGBTQ+ History Month. At the time of writing this, I hope Year 7 are looking forward to their Wellbeing Day this Friday. They will do a range of activities including Yoga, Salsa & Samba, Reading, Boardgames, Crafts, Wellbeing workshop and smoothie bikes. Please do ask them about how they found the day and hopefully it has given them some inspiration about activities that help look after their Wellbeing as well as showing them that they can survive a day without using their phones or devices!

8

Head of Year 8 - Dr Matthew Lakin

The Year 8s continue to make excellent collective and individual progress. Miss Davis and I were very impressed by the students' behaviour, focus and determination in the latter half of the Spring Term. The theme for PSHE for the next sequence of lessons is targeting 'emotional wellbeing', which hopes to stress the importance of mental health, body images, and copy strategies. Activity Day this Friday will punctuate the hurly-burly of School life: this year, Year 8 will participate in the JCB Machine of the Week challenge, where groups of 6 will design the machine of the future which complies to a complex and creative financial and engineering brief.

9

Head of Year 9 - Ms Marquez-Godoy

Since the return to school, Year 9 have thrown themselves into their new cocurricular programme, with many students enjoying the activities on offer already. On Friday the 1st of March they will have more time in their cocurricular groups as part of Activities Day. Please do discuss this with your child, as they may have to make arrangements for a packed lunch if they are not in school for the day.

On Monday evening, students enjoyed a talk from Dick Moore about wellbeing and how to cope with the stresses of life. The Year 9 students in attendance thoroughly appreciated Dick's honesty and the strategies that he introduced them to, with the event described as 'enlightening'. This talk acted as a purposeful following up to Kindness Week, which was celebrated in the first week after half term.

It feels wonderful to celebrate so much success in the year group this week. Abi A is now ranked second in the county for 50 and 100m breaststroke. This placed her third regionally and fiftieth nationally. Furthermore, the boys' hockey team competed in the Hockey Midlands Finals on Monday 26th of February. They played seven matches and emerged victorious, progressing to the National Finals which are due to take place in three weeks, after a 3-0 victory in their final match.

10

Head of Year 10 - Mr Paul Allison

Year 10 students have started their Independent Project during PSHE lessons. The Independent project is based on the old HPQ qualification where students choose a topic of their choice which has to be outside of the school curriculum. They create a viable title and research the topic over a 5 week period. The students are then introduced to research, referencing and bibliography skills in taught sessions. I look forward to reading some of the finished articles in the summer term. A huge congratulations to the year group for being awarded 603 distinctions this term for excellent work in the classroom. Teacher also award distinctions to students for their contribution to cocurricular activities and general excellence in many areas of the school life.

Congratulations to the following students who have each been awarded more than ten distinctions. Haider M, Asha D, Charles D, Chloe F, Finley R, Leah G, Om K and Daniel W.

In the form distinctions competition, the current totals and positions are as follows, it is still very close.

1st - 10E 137

2nd - 10D 134

3rd - 10A 115

4th - 10C 109

5th - 10B 108

There has also been success for students in various sports this term, both the year 10 Netball and Hockey teams have competed well in their Saturday and mid-week fixtures. Some students enjoyed the recent swimming gala at Warwick school.

11
to
13

Head of Year 11-13 - Mr David Gillett

Y11-13 have had a busy fortnight since half term. Y11 have hit the ground running in this final half term, engaging positively for the most part with intervention sessions and discussing with tutors about how to fine tune their preparation. Progress tests this Friday and the week after next will be a valuable opportunity for them to focus on the work covered since their Mocks and to further practise their exam technique. In Y12, we are pleased with how many have applied for the Senior Leadership Team and students are engaging well with their tutors to begin the UCAS process and next steps. Reviews with tutors in Y11-13 have highlighted obstacles to success and identified targets to overcome these. Y13 are working positively with us to organise their Prom and Yearbook as well as continuing to work hard in their final half term of A Levels.

Significant individual achievements in Y13 recently include Will qualifying for the British Physics Olympiad Round 2 and Grace progressing to the 2nd stage of the Psychology Olympiad. Grace also attended Great Britain U19 rowing trials and finished a fantastic 4th overall in the pairs race there. Huge congratulations to both!

Wellbeing Centre Launch

Our school community came together on Monday 26th February, to formally open our Wellbeing Centre. The centre is an invaluable resource and a unique addition to the school. You can see the photos from the evening here and also take a look at our drone video that showcases the centre.

Click to View Photos



Click to View Video



PHYSIO SESSIONS

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.

Important Notice from the School Nurse



Our school's policy states that a child should stay home from school for at least 48 hours after experiencing loose stools or vomiting in order to make sure they are well enough to attend and to lessen the possibility of viruses infecting other students.

The NHS has this useful link to give parent/cares advice to help them decide if their child is too ill for school.

[CLICK HERE](#)

UK Linguistics Olympiad

In February, a group of keen linguists completed the UK Linguistics Olympiad, a fiendish set of linguistic puzzles. Students had to decipher words from many different dialects including Georgian and Pig Latin. There were some very competitive entries, but Junqi Z achieved a Bronze certificate, which is a remarkable achievement in such a difficult test. Many congratulations to him and also to all the other participants. We will see you next year!



Market Day – West Bridgford – Sat 24th Feb

Our 3 Young Enterprise teams had a great day last Saturday selling their products to the general public. After a very cold, early start, business quickly warmed up and all 3 businesses starting taking money. All 3 teams took over £150 each and Fleurish sold out of most of their cards. A lot of business lessons were learnt including how to pitch a product, how to set prices and how to deal with competition.



Year 7 Author Visit of Alex Foulkes

On Thursday, as part of our Festival of the Word programme, Year 7 had a visit from Alex Foulkes, author of the successful and very enjoyable Rules for Vampires books.

Alex talked broadly about the drive to write, encouraging those who enjoy creative writing to stick at it, build skills and develop confidence in what they do. She also discussed the ups and downs in the process of getting an Agent and Publisher, the valuable relationship she developed working with established illustrator Sara Ogilvie, and the resilience needed to survive the commercial process of creating popular books. She has broken off from finishing the third book in the series to develop and write a new series for younger children which will be out soon. Alex is a very funny presenter and there was a lot of laughter so the visit was inspirational and a real treat. The session finished with a Q & A full of very pertinent questions (her favourite genre is Sci-Fi) and a most enjoyable Ghostly Gameshow Quiz.



Cambridge ON Dinner

We had a wonderful evening in Cambridge, on Saturday, sharing stories & catching up with each other. Our events are a great way to connect generations of Old Nottinghamians both personally and professionally. The Headmaster's speech was also a great opportunity to share both school news and our vision for the future.

For more information about our events programme please contact development@nottinghamhigh.co.uk



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LGBTQ+ History Month 2024



LGBTQ+ History Month 2024 has once again proven to be a resounding success, marked by a series of engaging events that brought together our entire Senior School community, spanning from Year 7 to Year 13. The month kicked off with an enlightening assembly centred around this year's theme, 'Medicine.' Members of our 6th Form Medics Society led discussions on notable LGBTQ+ figures in Medicine, health care disparities, especially amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, and strategies for fostering inclusivity in healthcare moving forward.

As part of the assembly, students were prompted to reflect on the personal significance of celebrating LGBTQ+ History Month and the broader societal benefits it entails. Post half-term, Year 9 students were treated to an inspiring talk by Professor Gregory Woods from Nottingham Trent University, the UK's first Professor of Gay and Lesbian Studies. Professor Woods passionately explored the transformative power of words, their evolution over time, and the reclamation of language. He delved into the evolution of LGBTQ+ literature, leaving a lasting impression on our students, as described by Beate from Year 9:

Why No Happy ending?

This was the question I asked Professor Gregory Woods on Monday during a talk on LGBTQ+ literature. The answer was a simple yet powerful one. Writers simply couldn't conceive an ending where two gay people could live happily together- society made it impossible to have a normal life in a non-heterosexual relationship. Most books ended in suicide death and execution, with the book's blurbs pointing out the secrecy and inhumanness of their situations. The one example that Professor Woods could find of a book in which someone did not tragically die was where the protagonists went to live in the woods- secluded and outcast from normal society. On the blurbs, gay love was described as forbidden, and Twilight- the use of words suggesting that Gay people were neither in the daylight or the night- their stories were murky, in some illegal place in the middle.

Another interesting thing to note, was the change in the words people used to identify themselves- when Professor Woods was a child, queer was often used- but it was thrown around as an insult- making people reluctant to use it to identify themselves. When gay began to be used, those who felt that they couldn't identify as queer accepted this, but it began to be a word that -like queer previously had- was used as a petty, schoolyard insult. Then, people affected by this began to continue to identify themselves as Gay. This alone shows how words can change over the centuries, making it important to recognise and remember how these words were and still are used.

Building on this inspiration, Key Stage 3 students were invited to creatively express themselves by adorning the front steps in Pride colours, resulting in a vibrant and visually striking display that brought LGBTQ+ History Month to the heart of our school. The ensuing lunch hour, despite leaving some students a tad chalk-covered, was thoroughly enjoyable.

We concluded the month with the annual non-uniform day dedicated to supporting the local charity, Notts LGBTQ+ Network. The day saw students embracing bright and lively clothing, reflecting their enthusiasm for contributing to this inspiring local cause. Additionally, Years 7-10 students participated in a collaborative art project, leaving messages on cut-out prints of their hands, expressing why celebrating LGBTQ+ History Month matters. The culmination of this project is eagerly anticipated in March.

Overall, this month has been an outstanding success, not only in raising awareness about LGBTQ+ individuals and identity but also in further solidifying our school's reputation as an inclusive and welcoming community.



Hockey Success

Emma Tao (year 10), Tegan Duff (year 9) and Zoë Rye (year 9) represented Nottinghamshire in the recent Midlands county U15s hockey tournament. Emma and Zoe also competed for the U17s team in the morning on the same day. There was some great fast play and they are all looking forward to hockey season at school again in September!



Jazz and Italian Night 2024

The annual jazz night took place on Friday 23rd March. This year's theme was Italian, which inspired us to perform many famous classics, such as 'Mambo Italiano', 'That's Amore', and 'Hey Mambo' to name a few. We had performances from the Barbershop Groups in Years 9,10,11, and 12, many Solo Vocalists, Y10 Saxophone Ensemble, Y12 Jazz Trio, Lower and Senior Big Bands. Catering creating a wonderful Italian themed feast for both guests and performers. All musicians played or sung brilliantly and created a wonderful evening of entertainment!



Acts of Kindness



Last week we celebrated Acts of Kindness and there were a variety of activities for Y7-10 students to participate in!

On Tuesday, students watched our pre-recorded launch assembly within Tutor Set time. The assembly was led by Roanna Coles (the School's newly appointed Mental Health Lead) and provided a short introduction to the Acts of Kindness week. There was a focus on self-compassion (challenging our critical voice) and an introduction our first activities: Journaling and Self-Compassion Bingo. If you would like to watch the assembly, it can be found here

[CLICK HERE](#)

On Wednesday, students moved their focus from self-compassion to recognising existing acts of kindness by others. This was facilitated through the completion of a virtual affirmation board within Tutor Set time.

I was given some daffodils from a colleague yesterday.	I saw someone helping another person to revise.	I helped someone	pavisha held the door for me	zoe tied my shoelace for me when I didn't want to	I opened the door for someone	I saw my friend help someone with their homework	I always try to have a smile on my face and positive/welcoming to new students or just to make other people smile	Someone held the door for me	A student in the school makes an effort to remember all of the birthdays of her peers, and gives them all a birthday card.	I gave my ruler to someone	someone gave me a pen yesterday
I have seen a student holding a door open for another student who is on crutches.	Someone bought me a cookie	My teachers help me when i'm stuck	I saw someone go through the door and they waited for them to go through the door	I supported another student who is on crutches and made sure they got to tutor set safely.	My friend always took pictures of my DT project when I didn't bring my phone. I am still very grateful.	I saw someone staying for them when they were doing their homework	someone held the door open for me when I walked into school today.	I've seen a person help someone with their work when they were struggling.			
I try to be positive to everyone to make people feel happy.	My friend helps me get stuff from my locker and helps me keep it organised.	I saw someone pick up a book that someone else dropped	Someone ran to help me pick up my pencil case when I dropped it	my friend didnt close the door on me for once	I took pictures of my friends project because she didn't have her device on her	I saw Mahd compliment olivers hair because it's random acts of kindness week	Someone told me my hair looks curly	I saw someone help a year 7 to go to the right place.			
I smile at people to help them feel happy.	I was a new student only recently, and everyone was extremely kind, and welcoming to me!	I saw a tall boy help a kid get his ball back when he could not reach it.	I saw someone carrying their friends books back to a lesson because the other friend was injured	I gave someone who was super hungry some food	i saw someone help someone with their homework	My geography teacher lets us revise in the lesson	I saw someone take a picture of someone else's work for them when they didn't have their phone	My friends helped me when i was stuck			
A student helping another student with crutches getting to tutor set	A student helped another student tie their tie this morning.	My teachers have been extremely kind, supportive, and I have felt very happy to be learning in this school!	I watched someone help a year 7 get to class	I gave someone their shoes when they fell off.	My friends were helping me revise yesterday which was kind	I have seen an older student help a Junior school student when they dropped their bowl/cutlery/tray in the dining room.	Someone asked me how I was feeling today	Someone helped to fill the water bottle of a student on crutches.			

On Thursday, Year 7 and 8 students used their extended form period to contribute to a Kindness Jar, with a further focus on the acts of kindness that they would like to observe within the School's community. There were some brilliant suggestions, which will now be discussed and acted upon.

At the conclusion of the week, all students had the opportunity to bring in items to support Hope, Nottingham. The items collected will be delivered to Hope by the Community Action group.



U14 Boys' Hockey Success

0-0 Loughborough
1-0 Shrewsbury
3-0 Malvern
1-0 Queen Mary's
1-0 KES Stratford
3-0 Wrekin



Early start and plenty of hockey on the cards for the U14 boys' hockey team today away at Rugby School for the Midlands Finals. First up in the pool was a familiar side in the form of Loughborough Grammar. The team started strong creating several chances but couldn't quite find the back of the net. The game ended 0-0 and the boys couldn't help but feel they had missed an opportunity. With 1 point on the board, it was now the turn of Shrewsbury School who had lost their 1st game. The game started positively with several chances for Nottingham and through Eddie they managed to find the lead. A well fought game ended 1-0 to Nottingham. With the team beginning to find a bit of form, it was now time to face Malvern College. The team looked far more organised and well up for the challenge. Through their hard work and persistence, they took an early 3-0 lead and finished the game with another win. On 7 points and feeling confident it was Queen Mary's up next who sat on 9 points. The team knew they were in for a battle and rose to the occasion securing well-earned 1-0 win. With Nottingham sitting 2nd in the pool, it came down to the final game against KES Stratford to decide who would be going through to the final. In was was the toughest game of the day, the boys battled incredibly hard and knew nothing but a win would send them through. In the final seconds of the game, it came down to the Captain Tom to pick a loose ball in the D and put it away from the tightest of angles. After a tough 5 games and still a clean sheet, the boys felt confident going into the final against Wrekin College knowing another of another clean sheet is on the cards then goals will come and come they did. Hugo who started off the scoring was quickly followed by Jaikar with a double to see the game out 3-0. The team had done it. They had won the Midlands Finals and were National Finalists! Huge congratulations to every player and we look forward to seeing what they can do at Nationals on 18th March 2024.

Braimah Kanneh-Mason Visit: Tuesday 20th February

We were delighted to welcome Braimah Kanneh-Mason to the High School on Tuesday. He performed a lunchtime recital to a packed Recital Hall, including Bach, his own folk arrangement, and the iconic 'The Lark Ascending'. He ran a masterclass for our most advanced violinists/violists - Muskan G, Adam C, Evan A-Y and Anna B, and he also directed workshops with the Junior Strings, Sinfonia and Senior Strings. He was absolutely phenomenal and a real inspiration to the students. It was a huge privilege to meet him, he said he thoroughly enjoyed working with the students and that he'd be happy to come back!



Music Events for the rest of the term

Choral Music Festival – Wednesday 8th March, 4.30pm, Recital Hall – Greg Link (Voces8) will be working with the Pop Choirs, Barbershop Groups and Chamber Choir during the day and the concert will feature performances from these groups plus a massed finale item

Spring Concert – Thursday 21st March, 7pm, The Albert Hall, Nottingham – this involves all of Year 7 and senior ensembles and choirs. Seating is unlimited but please use click on the following Trybooking link to give us an idea of numbers for refreshments

[Click here to book](#)

Update from Sport

In another busy sporting week, where our U14 boys hockey have qualified for the National Hockey finals; our under 18s won all of their games up to the final match of the Midlands finals only to miss qualifying for the National finals on shuffles, and our U16 team at the Midlands finals (result unknown at the time of writing); Our swimming teams at the Bath Cup in London; Our Netballers preparing for a 14 game block fixture with Denstone College; and our hockey teams for a 14 team Saturday with Trent College, Derby Grammar and Loughborough Grammar, I came across an interesting article on barriers to championship performances. It is written by Dan Pfaff, an American track and field coach, who has coached national, world, and Olympic championship athletes. I considered its content in its relevance to this week for our sports performers, but also how it may relate to our academic performers too. There are messages here we can all learn from.



Tremendous Triangular for year 7!

It was brilliant to host Trent and Stonyhurst, a great Saturday morning of sport!



News From PSHE

PSHE have had two student voice opportunities this half term; Brew Monday on Monday 19th February for Year 7-9 and Kit Kats for a selected group of Year 10 and 11, where they had the opportunity to give honest feedback on PSHE and RSE lesson content and delivery. If you have any feedback, or want to know more about what students learn in PSHE, please do contact Alex Andrews Andrews.a@nottinghamhigh.co.uk



National Junior Indoor Rowing Championship success in Leeds

On Friday 23rd February, Anja and Lulu (year 10) competed in the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships in Leeds. Both raced very well, achieving personal bests, and came away with fantastic results: Lulu 2nd, Anja 6th.

What was lovely to see was their mutual respect for each other and how they put aside the fact they were competing for different clubs, to celebrate each other's success with a warm embrace. They are fantastic ambassadors for rowing, their clubs and the school.



PSHE Topics for second half of Spring term:

Year 7

Health and puberty
Healthy routines, influences on health, puberty, and FGM

Year 8

Emotional wellbeing
Mental health and emotional wellbeing, including body image and coping strategies

Year 9

Healthy lifestyle
Diet, exercise, lifestyle balance and healthy choices, and first aid

Year 10

Extended Project
Preparation for and evaluation of work experience and readiness for work

Year 11

Independence
Responsible health choices and safety in independent contexts

34th NOTTINGHAM (HIGH SCHOOL) SCOUT AND EXPLORER GROUP



CHARITY FUN AND GAMES NIGHT

Featuring "The Fiendish and Devious Quiz", for
The Ben Thomas Cup

RAFFLE, GAMES, HEADS & TAILS, PAY BAR, FOOD

In the School Dining Hall on
Friday 15th March 2024 at 6pm

Teams may contain no more than 4 adults
(unlimited under 16s may participate in any team in addition)
£15 per adult; £7.50 for under 16s.

for which you get entry to the Quiz and a Chilli, cooked and served by members of the 34th Nottingham.
Booking via Trybooking using this link - <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DDFJ>



All in aid of the Centenary Fund

The Centenary Fund is a charitable fund which provides financial assistance to Scouts of limited means,
to enable full participation in all of the Group's camps, expeditions and activities

Academic & Sporting Success

Congratulations to Phoebe F for her recent successes.

On the academic side, she sat the first round of the psychology Olympiad on Monday and has progressed to the second round next weekend having come in the top 30%.

On the sporting front, she attended Great Britain U19 rowing trials. After a strong first day sculling in the single, she was paired with a girl from Kew House School Boat Club for the pairs race. They finished a fantastic 4th overall (and only 1.1seconds off second place).

This is a brilliant achievement for Phoebe and she will now continue on through the next selection races.



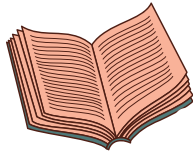
YEAR 7 TASTER DAYS 2nd & 23rd May



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

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



Festival of the Word



Between 19 and 23 February, the English department held its inaugural 'Festival of the Word': a series of talks and workshops led by visitors from fields ranging from forensic linguistics to music journalism, experimental poetry to local literary heritage. The event was warmly received by students from across all of the year groups, and included the following highlights:

Carolyn Melbourne from the DH Lawrence Birthplace Museum in Eastwood came to talk to Year 9 about Lawrence and particularly his time at the High School. The Museum also kindly loaned us one of their exhibitions on Lawrence's novel 'The Rainbow'. Students were fascinated to learn that this novel was subject to an obscenity trial. The exhibition depicted the controversy surrounding this as a Twitter storm, re-imagining Lawrence's comments as Tweets! Our students then contributed to the exhibition adding their views on censorship to a debate wall.

Years 12 and 13 were treated to a lecture by Professor Natalie Braber of Nottingham Trent University, who presented information on several areas of her research. Professor Braber has recently been involved in a project for the Home Office, developing protocols for the use of voice evidence in legal proceedings. Professor Braber took the group through the intricacies of identifying voices in an "Audio Line-up", avoiding the impact of accent or dialect biases, and shared some of the surprising findings of her research (including research that found that some voices are far more likely to be judged as 'criminal' than others). Professor Braber also explored the impact of brain injury on language use; how damage to different areas of the brain can produce remarkably different patterns of aphasia. Finally, the group looked at how gendered language norms are used to reinforce gender roles through advertising and product design.

Year 8 were visited by the Head Curator from Newstead Abbey, who presented on a range of objects connected to Lord Byron, including his revolvers which he always kept by his bed and a portrait of 'The Goblin Friar'. The students were then challenged to produce a dramatic piece inspired by Byron's experiences and own writing. We are looking forward to seeing what students come up with and Newstead Abbey will be displaying some of the strongest pieces at the Abbey itself.

Lila Matsumoto, poet, musician and Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Nottingham led a workshop exploring ekphrasis (using visual art to stimulate imaginative writing) and the concept of 'caption' poetry. Students were also given a window into her approach to the sonic textures of language through her work as part of the band Food People. Zara Cheesman, a Year 10 student, offered the following reflections: "We looked at a more abstract image and this was startling; we picked out colours and themes, instead of appearances. [Professor Matsumoto] showed us some of her own work, which was inspired by music and art - this meant that instead of writing about the setting of the image, it was more as to what we gained through looking/listening to the stimulus [...] From this talk, I found that I can learn to write with more senses that just what the eyes see."

Three year nine classes were granted the opportunity to listen to Professor Gregory Woods, who spoke to the students about LGBTQ+ literature. Student Tia Okungbowa wrote, "Professor Woods was the first ever professor of Gay and Lesbian Studies in the UK, so it was a real honour to hear from him. His talk turned out to be more of a history lesson; when you learn about how the initialism came to be you, you learn about how the community struggled with constantly being judged and belittled in the past. I found that the most interesting part was how the community took multiple words that were used against them and then took those words back for themselves. Words such as 'queer' or 'gay', which used to be words used to ostracise the community, to make them feel lesser than others, are now being used proudly and unapologetically. I find that really inspiring."

Year 10 were offered a talk and q&a with Russell Slater, editor of Songlines magazine, which provided a far-ranging insight into his adventures in South America as a music journalist engaging with diverse artistic communities and scenes, as well as helping students appreciate the practical aspects of overseeing the running of a leading journalistic publication. Rahul Jeyanand, a Year 10 student, was enthused by the session: "I was lucky enough to attend a talk by Russell Slater-Johnson about music journalism. He spoke to us about how he originally grew up reading through music magazines as a child, and ended up creating Sounds and Colors, which was a publication focused on Latin music [...] I particularly enjoyed how he spoke about his experiences in South America, meeting various artists of different backgrounds while couch surfing across the continent [...] This talk also helped me to understand the importance of music, and how it can connect people across the world as well as the influence culture has towards music. Overall, it was an eye-opening talk that has changed my view on the role of music within society, and I am very grateful to have had such an incredible opportunity."

Dr Rowley / English Department



Careers News - March 2023

Next week is National Careers Week, so we're encouraging students to make the most of all the excellent resources being published by different organisations. There are new, free online work experience opportunities with Springpod and TheForge, and many new careers magazines from industry sectors and institutions that might spark your interest.

It's also a good time to book places at university open days and explore apprenticeship openings with different organisations.

Enjoy exploring all your options!
Mrs Auterson, Head of Careers



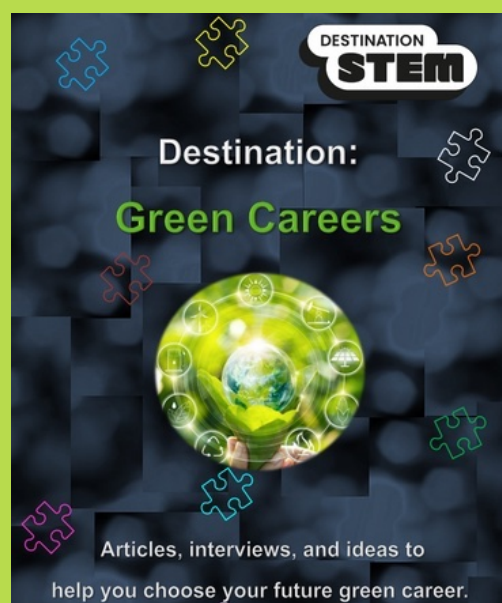
Deadline for entry to this year's Nottingham Young Creative Awards is **15 March: Creative Writing, Animation, Dance, Film, Fashion, Architecture, Music, Photography and Visual Arts categories...**



work experience

During half term myself and Esther participated in an interesting work experience at Sygnature Discovery, part of Biocity in Nottingham. We followed the process of how a drug goes through its early stages of development right up to being ready for preclinical trials. Throughout the day and a half we were shown the outcomes of past research and the many processes that are required to produce a working effective medicinal compound. I was amazed by the way they could narrow down thousands of different compounds into a single working drug. The staff at Sygnature Discovery were really helpful and happy to give advice on our future. This opportunity has helped me have a clearer idea of the options available to me at university and potentially for a future career.

Edward Morris - Yr 12



Want to learn more about **Green Careers**? This guide is a great starting point::

Careers News - March 2023



Click on the images to explore the magazines



SCHOOL NEWS GALLERY



Naming ceremony with Year 7



LGBTQ History Month Chalk Steps



Wellbeing Talk from Dick Moore



Senior School Climbing



Engineering Workshops



Under 12a's record their first win of the season



Philosophy Religion and Ethics lesson exploring issues of equality



Maths Feast Competition



Professor Gregory Woods speaking to Year 9 about LGBTQ Literature

PARENT NOTICES

Raise donations for Nottingham High School whenever you shop online

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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.