



# THE MERLE

NOTTINGHAM HIGH SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



FRIDAY 26TH APRIL 2024 - ISSUE 48

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

It is my intention to keep you updated as the Governors look to recruit my replacement from September 2025. The role is now advertised. The process is being run by RSAcademics who have worked with the School previously and they were in school earlier this week to find out more about the School so that they have the appropriate knowledge to inform any potential candidates about the School.

Separately there is a strange quirk to being the head here which is that I am obliged by my contract to have my portrait painted! This is because many years ago a donor set up the Dobson Portrait Fund which is invested and the interest used to pay for this to be done. No money is put into it by the School but it was a generous donation and so there are funds available to pay for this. I have to say it is not something I would have wanted by choice but I am obliged to have it done! Thus, yesterday I was out of school for this process to begin. The chosen artist is Paul Brason who is based in Wiltshire. This project is due to be completed in June 2025. You can see some of his work here: <https://www.paulbrason.co.uk>

This term has got off to a great start and the exam classes are now in the final stages of their preparation. The School has seen a great deal of success both in sporting and in academic competitions and you can read more of some of these achievements below.

I very much enjoyed attending the CCF inspection day last weekend and thank you to all those of you who came to support the event. It was good to see the gun run in action as well as to talk to the cadets during the inspection and to hear about all that they have enjoyed doing this year.

Let us hope that the weather starts to improve so that the summer sport can go ahead as planned. There is much to look forward to in the coming weeks.

Kevin Fear (Headmaster)

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

				26 Non uniform Day 1513 - Yr 8/9
29 Year 8 - HPV - medical	30	1 A - Level Art Exam 1513 - Yr 10/11 A-Level German Oral	2 A - Level Art Exam Drama - A- Level Practical Exam Day	3 A - Level Art Exam Year 11 Exam Leave (4.00pm)
6 Year 10: Silver DofE walking - Practice Bank Holiday Monday	7	8 Drama - Lamda Exams 1st GCSE Exam - English Language (14:00) Year 10 Parents' Evening	9 Primary Masterclass (4 - 5.15pm) Drama - Lamda Exams Year 13 Exam Leave (12.45) Year 13 Ball	10 Drama - Lamda Exams
13	14 1st A-Level Exam - CC (14:00) Year 12 - online UCAS Evening	15 Chemistry - Outreach Day	16 Year 10 - Holderness Geog Trip	17 D of E Gold Walking and Canoe Practice
20 Languages - Year 7 - 9 Listening exams all week YE - East Mids Round (13.00- 19.00)	21 Languages - Year 7 - 9 Listening exams all week Teatime concert - piano (4.45pm)	22 Languages - Year 7 - 9 Listening exams all week Year 12 Parents' Evening Primary Masterclass (4 - 5.15pm) Teatime concert - Piano - 4.45pm	23 Languages - Year 7 - 9 Listening exams all week 1513 - Yr 7	24 Year 10: Biology Field Trip Languages - Year 7 - 9 Listening exams all week Year 9 Maths Exam

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 made a good start back to their final term in Year 7. It has been lovely to hear their stories from the Languages and Ski trips that a large number of them were on over the Easter holidays. Year 7 started their new topic in PSHE this week around Relationships and the first lesson was on Appearance ideals and the Media. The students were very engaged and shared lots of interesting conversations around social media and celebrities and the impact these can have on body image and self-esteem. Please see the infographic that was sent out before Easter with more information on the lessons this topic.

We hope that Year 7 have been enjoying the start of Cricket season. It is always enjoyable to see the whole year group at the one venue for Games and we hope they enjoyed their first fixtures against Stamford despite the result. Finally, a big well done to the U12 Netball team for becoming County Champions this week!

## Head of Year 8 - Dr Matthew Lakin

8

The Year 8s have made an excellent return to school this half term. The Year 8 team are impressed as ever by their enthusiasm and determination, and it has been great to follow their many achievements in and out of the classroom. Cricket and the other sports have got off to an excellent start with outstanding attendance at after school practice every week. It has been great to see the Year group taking part in sport together. This term will be a busy one, and as we turn our attention to summer exams, we will be working with the year group to help them improve their revision plans and techniques.

## Head of Year 9 - Ms Marquez-Godoy

9

Year 9 have made a positive return to school following the Easter break: it has been wonderful to see large numbers of distinctions awarded already, and many students have been asking positive questions about the term ahead - including the end of year examinations – demonstrating a pleasing amount of forward planning! Additionally, Eva and Grace demonstrated fantastic effort, curiosity and individuality in producing a short film for a competition created by Cambridge University's Faculty of Divinity, answering the question 'Are there really 10 commandments?' Eva and Grace produced a fantastic stop motion video on the topic, winning the competition.

On Saturday many students in Year 9 took part in the CCF's biannual Inspection Day. They took part in the activities with enthusiasm and represented the school proudly on the day.

During Monday's PSHE lesson, Year 9 will be visited by Jeffrey Boakye, who will be delivering a workshop for the students on the topic of racism. Jeffrey is a former teacher, a published author and a journalist. It is hoped that the students will find this workshop insightful and that it prompts some positive discussion. Please do talk to your children about this on Monday, as we would be grateful to receive any feedback.

## Head of Year 10 - Mr Paul Allison

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Year 10 returned from their Easter break to embark on a busy series of end of year exams. The students sat the exams with the intention of giving them the experience of the type of GCSE exams they will face next year. The students were a credit to themselves as they all conducted themselves with maturity throughout this busy period.

Outside the classroom, the students have started their summer sport activities and are looking forward to the fixture programme. It has also been pleasing to see a number of students attending before school and after school training sessions.

In PSHE this term, the students are looking at the topic of extremism and radicalisation following on from an informative assembly by the local police in March.

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

11  
to  
13

We have been very impressed as to how Year 12 have conducted themselves during their internal exams. We look forward to welcoming them back into tutor set at the end of this week and discussing plans with them for the rest of this term. Year 13 have had a recent talk from Sheffield University on applying for student finance and tips for budgeting. May 31st is the deadline for applying for student finance to guarantee that finance will be in place for the start of September degree courses. We are available if anyone needs help or advice with their student finance applications. GCSE exams have started with the Year 11 language speaking exams and the practical Art exams and we hope these have gone well for all of our students. It is hugely important that Year 13 and 11 student get the most out of their lessons in these final few weeks. Teachers will be giving valuable advice and tips as to exam technique, feedback on practice papers, revision activities and positive reinforcement all of which is invaluable in the run up to the exam season.

Read more about Kevin Fear's Retirement [Here](#)

“

It has been the privilege of my life to lead Nottingham High School and its fantastic team of teaching and support staff. I have been so proud of all of the students who have been in our care and of their remarkable achievements. I am looking forward now to my retirement but I do so with the School in fantastic shape. I will miss so much about the school, the amazing children, the supportive parental body and of course all of the outstanding staff and Governing Body.

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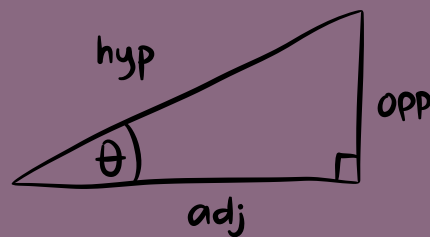
## U12 County Netball Champions! Incredible efforts by all the girls and fantastic commitment to training.



## Maths Olympiad Success

Students have once again distinguished themselves in the recent Intermediate Maths Olympiad. All of those that took part should be pleased with their performance and special congratulations go to Josh Z (Yr11) for achieving a distinction, Senith G for achieving a distinction and bronze medal and Ives L for achieving a distinction and Gold medal. Ives was also the top performing student in the whole of the East Midlands.

In addition William H (Yr 12) has been selected to as part of the UK team for the Balkan mathematical Olympiad, due to take place from the 27th of April until the 2nd of May. Altogether these show the strength of competition maths at the High School.



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**Update from Music**



We have now uploaded a video of our Choral Music Festival, you can watch it [here!](#)



**News from RE**

Back in the Autumn term, Year 9 students created a video as part of the RE: View Cambridge in your classroom competition, this is a competition ran by the University of Cambridge where applicants from different year groups can enter by submitting a video on one of the themes listed within the competition. Eva M and Grace B have recently received a Highly Commended certificate and a cash prize for their entry which was on the theme of "Are there really 10 commandments?" Eva gave some words of wisdom to those who will be competing in the competition next year and said "I would encourage people to plan and structure their project and that way when you start creating the video, it makes the whole process smoother." The RS department is proud of their achievement and you can watch their video using the following [link](#).



**Girls Chess Teams at the ECF National Finals**

Venue St Catherine's School, Surrey.

The High school had two teams in the final of the Girls Chess Championships.

Senior team: Alexandra. A, Kate. H, and Mya P.

Junior team consisted of: Samyuktha V, Avani K and Eisha H.

We came ninth in both age groups.

Alexandra was our top scorer in the under 19s. She scored 4 points

Kate scored two and Mya scored two and a half.

The Juniors played very well and gained valuable experience and learnt a lot.

Samyuktha was very successful beating most of the top players. She scored five wins and one draw. Avani K won two games. Eisha H was playing in her first tournament and found it hard to win but she improved as the tournament went on.

They have a trophy and medals each.

Full results can be found using these links:

[Under 19s](#)

[Under 11s](#)



**Year 7 Modern Foreign Languages Trip**

At 11:30 PM, we all gathered in the school yard (49 students from Year 7) to embark on the amazing journey about to come. Although the 20-hour bus journey along with a 2-hour ferry was long, it was completely worth it when we arrived in the stunning city of Strasbourg in France. Throughout the trip we travelled and explored different places. My top 5 favourite places we visited were Monkey Mountain, the Triberg Waterfalls, the bowling alley, Strasbourg Cathedral and my most favourite:

Europa Park. The 7th day was probably the best day as we went to Europa Park and we had the chance to ride all the fun rollercoasters and rides. The best part about the France and Germany trip was that we had lots of freedom and got to explore different towns and cities. Each morning we ate a delicious French breakfast at the Hostel like fresh croissants and different pastries and at lunch we had the freedom to choose our own lunch. Overall, I would completely recommend the France and Germany trip as it was very fun and we went on so many different adventures creating memories that will last forever - Lavanya in Year 7





Easter Ski Trip



**PRESENTS FAST BOWLING MASTERCLASS WITH JUNAID KHAN**

Friday 10th May 6-8:30pm  
 Nottingham High School  
 Forest Road East  
 NG1 4HH

**For bookings please contact Ahsan on**

07712108592  
 ahsan@ahsancricketacademy@gmail.com  
 www.ahsancricketacademy.co.uk



**Price £50 each or £90 for 2 people!**

Limited spaces so book now to avoid disappointment. Due to limited spaces please note refund will not be given once payment has been made unless the event is cancelled!

**Ages: 8+ open to anyone nationwide**

ALSO LIKELY TO ATTEND



**Nadeem Malik**  
 Fast bowler who has represented Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Worcestershire and England under 19's

MASTERCLASS SPONSORED BY



## Curiosity Cabinet

This month, the curiosity cabinet features twenty objects chosen by the English Department. All of them feature prominently in works of literature – as ways of working, as a source of inspiration, or as a pure invention. Ranging from goose-quills to frankfurters, and from diamond rings to a modified drain plunger, the objects cross continents and span over a thousand years of writing. They represent Anglo-Saxon riddles, Jacobean drama, contemporary Nigerian fiction, and plenty in between! There are lots of details to catch the eye and invite questions: what does the conch represent? Why is there a green light? Who measured out their life with coffee spoons? Students can interact with the cabinet through a series of competitions: naming as many objects as they can find, as well as nominating another item to include in the exhibit. There will also be a prize for the best piece of creative writing that includes objects from the display - we're really looking forward to reading the entries!



## Year 7 Food Club celebrate Eid

Although a little bit late, this week Year 7 were treated this week to a Master Classes in hand made Samosas and Chapattis with Preeti Mills from Mango Ginger Cookery School to celebrate Eid. They all had great fun and we can certainly say that they were delicious too and a great way to start off the week!



### Athletic Development and The Fitness Suite News

During Games and after-school athletics and cricket training sessions, our student-athletes have been completing mini strength and conditioning blocks at the start of each session. In athletics they have been progressing through resisted sprinting and various speed drills, alongside different jumping, hopping, and bounding exercises. In cricket, we have lots of exercises that prepare for the demands of bowling, batting, and fielding. There is a specific focus on shoulder mobility and strength exercises which help reduce overuse injuries – this is especially important for fast bowlers. The bespoke strength and conditioning programmes have been designed to complement both sports, but also to enhance general athletic performance.

We are well into the DofE Assessor report season and we have had many students utilise the Fitness Suite as part of their physical section for all of the different levels over the last year. The Bronze Award tends to see individuals with general goals of improving strength and fitness. In contrast, the extensive Silver and Gold often see students training for more specific tailored goals or events such as half marathons and actual DofE expeditions. We are more than happy to continue to act as assessors for the physical sections in the future.

Mr Drummond

### Finance Department's Mrs Cito's trip with GB Women's Ice Hockey

In my spare time away from work I am the performance analyst for the Women's Great Britain Ice Hockey team. I have been involved in the team since 2015 after I retired from being a player myself due to injury. The role has taken me all over the world to wonderful places such as Kazakhstan, South Korea, Finland, Slovenia and most recently Riga in Latvia. Riga hosted the IIHF Women's World Championships Division 1 Group B. This group included Latvia, Great Britain, Italy, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia. Team GB were promoted to this group in 2022 and last year finished 5th in the group. The target for the tournament was to obtain 9 points (3 wins). The tournament started strong with a 1-0 win over Italy (who will be hosting the winter Olympics in 2 years' time) – a team we haven't beaten since 2008. We went on to play a very tight match against Poland who we took to overtime and then sadly lost 3-2. Our 3rd match was our toughest against the recently relegated Slovakia who are ranked 16th in the world. Due to a couple of penalties and bad luck, we lost 7-1, however we bounced back to convincingly beat Slovenia 2-1. These results took us to the Silver medal/4th place game against host nations Latvia. The match was a sell out with Latvian fans beating drums and chanting as loud as they could. GB went ahead after just 2 minutes 20 seconds, Latvia then tied the match and went onto score the next goal but GB persisted and scored to reach a tie again. 6 minutes to go in the match Latvia scored again to make it 3-2. GB threw everything into the remainder of the game, even pulling the goalie to gain a man advantage however it wasn't meant to be. We finished 4th in the tournament which is an improvement on the year prior but it was of course disappointing to get so close to medalling. The outcome has made us even hungrier to go again next year where we are determined to come home with silver wear. GB women's next tournament is the pre-Olympic qualifiers in November which is hopefully going to be hosted in the UK (potentially Nottingham) so stay posted for an update later in the year!







## RED-Sport Relative Energy Deficiency in Sport.

Does this mean anything to you?

REDS can effect anybody; age, gender and sports ability. The attached booklet is a great resource for awareness and education created by the World Athletics.

Read more [here!](#)

### Athletics Success

Even though the Athletics season has only just started with only two weekends of fixtures, two Nottingham High School students are already impressing on the track. Gabriel O (Year 9) has started the season where he left off last year. Gabriel was crowned the National 200m U13 champion in 2023. He has already improved his personal bests for the 100m, 200m and 300m. At a recent event in Loughborough, Gabriel ran amazing times to rank him second in the country for the 100m, 200m and 300m. All of the times Gabriel has posted so far are also English Schools qualifying times. Katie G (Year 12) is also in early season form, she has also ran an English Schools entry time for the 3000m and is in ranked in the top 15 in the country.

The schools athletes have over 20 fixtures this season and we look forward to following theirs and the schools success this season.

### News from the Development Office

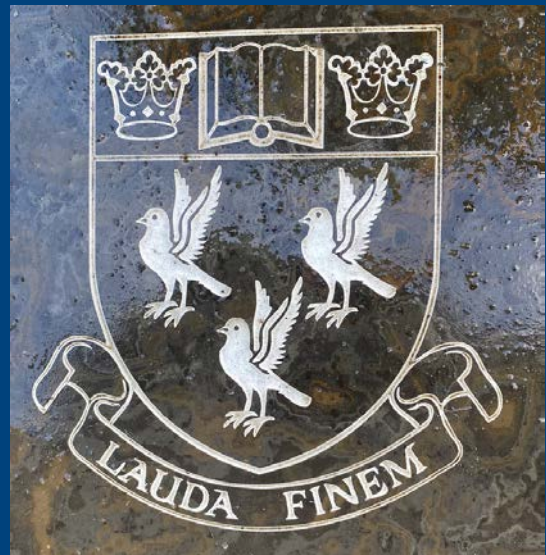
Since its launch in 2017, our Sponsor a Stone campaign has raised over £65,000 (including Gift Aid) for the School's Bursary Fund. We've sold over 200 stones to date!

This campaign not only celebrates links with Nottingham High School but it's also supporting our commitment to creating opportunities for children, who without financial assistance, would be denied their opportunity to study at the School. Waverley Walkway is now lined with personalised stones, which are a permanent feature of the School and one which will be enjoyed by generations of our School community to come.

Behind each stone is a story.

We are also excited to launch our project 'Stories behind the Stones' where, in the coming months, we'll be collecting the personal stories, and memories, for the School community to share and enjoy. These will also form part of the School's new Digital Archive.

We are currently taking orders for Phase 2, please do get in touch to reserve your stone.



# SCHOOL NEWS GALLERY



Scouts camp in Ennerdale



Command Tasks at the CCF Inspection Day



Y7 Food club celebrate Eid



Last training session before Netball season ends for Y9&10 girls



Daisy won the Gill Barradell award for being the top shooter at the U12 County Tournament



CCF Inspection Day

# 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).