



# THE MERLE

NOTTINGHAM HIGH SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



FRIDAY 24TH MAY 2024 - ISSUE 50



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are already half way through the summer term. Indeed, it is hard with all this rain to believe that we are in the Summer Term. It has been frustrating to lose so much school sport at this time of year. The exam season though is in full swing with the remainder of the School exams to follow after the break and we have been busy finalising our staff recruitment for September.

With the announcement of the General Election we are looking forward to holding a mock election in school. Independent schools will be much spoken about during the campaign I am sure with the potential imposition of VAT on school fees. Sadly the detail of this is so far sketchy which makes the planning all the more difficult but we will keep you informed as more details emerge in the coming weeks and months.

This week I went to see a remarkable play at Nottingham Playhouse called 'Punch'. It told the story of a man who had caused the death of someone he didn't know with one punch. It made me think a great deal about forgiveness, about how we should cherish the time we have with loved ones and how life can change in an instant so about the importance of enjoying every moment.

I hope that you all enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend. Good luck to all those who are revising and let's hope that the weather improves,

Kevin Fear (Headmaster)

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday

27	28	29	30	31
		<b>Half Term</b>		
3	4	5	6	7
School exams start (7, 8, 9) Year 12 skills challenge starts (3 weeks) IJS Play rehearsal week			Exams end for Year 7, 8 and 9 Primary Masterclass (4 - 5.15pm)	UCAT Preparation Day (Year 12) Exams end for Year 9 Year 7 - Newstead Abbey Trip Year 8: Creative Day Art - Yorkshire Sculpture Park - Year 8 Year 9 and 10 Activities day (options only) - tbc DT - Year 10 Notts Uni Visit
10	11	12	13	14
Drama - Yr 12 A -Level (1-4pm)		1513 - Yr 7/8	Drama - IGCSE and A-Level Practical (6.30 - 8pm) U13 NW Cricket Tour leaves New student Parents' Evening (7 - 10) DT - Scalextrix for Schools	Founder's Day Rehearsal (2 - 4pm) U13 NW Cricket Tour returns 1513 - Yr 9/10 Scouts - Hoveringham (4-8pm)
17	18	19	20	21
Art Exhibition 8A/B - Geography - Burbage Brook (9 - 4pm)	VEX Outreach Day	8C - Geography - Burbage Brook (9 - 4pm) Teatime concert - Open - 4.45pm Last GCSE Exam - Food (9.15)	8D/E - Geography - Burbage Brook (9 - 4pm) Primary Masterclass (4 - 5.15pm) Yr 12 Cambridge Challenge Exam (9.15-10.45)	Year 12: Biology Trip (all Day) Leavers' BBQ/Art Exhibition Lower School Production rehearsal (9-4pm) Last A-Level Exam - Chem P3 (9.15)
24	25	26	27	28
Sixth Form Induction Starts Year 12 History University Library visit Year 10 Art Exam (5 Hours) Year 10 Oral Assessments	Drama - Lower School Production (7.00pm) LH Sports Day Year 10 Oral Assessments	DEAR Day Drama - Lower School Production (7.00pm) Year 10 Oral Assessments	Sixth Form Induction ends (12.40) Year 9 Tutor Reports Due (10am) Year 11 Prom DT - STEM Day Year 10 Oral Assessments	Sports Day (7-10 + 12)

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

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## Head of Year 7 - Mrs Hollie Neale

Year 7 have had a busy and productive last couple of weeks of the half-term. One of their assemblies was on managing stress with exams and we hope that they take on board the advice they were given in terms of looking after themselves during half-term and exam week. They also had an assembly from Mr Alexander on the High School Award so I'm sure many of them have been excited to work towards completing that either this year or by the end of Year 8. This week we had an assembly led by our school police officer, Anna, on hate crimes. We hope that the seriousness of Anna's messages were understood by all students in terms of what a hate crime is and what they can do if they become aware of one. Year 7 were also very fortunate to have Upfront Theatre Company in school for their PSHE lesson this week. More information on this is in the PSHE article. They've also enjoyed a variety of activities this week including a charity football tournament which was very competitive! We hope the Year 7 students have a good half-term incorporating some revision but also plenty of rest and relaxation ahead of the summer exams on their return to school.

8

## Head of Year 8 - Dr Matthew Lakin

As we approach the end of the first half of the Summer Term, the Y8s find themselves tired but happy. They have their sights firmly set on the Y8 exams after the half-term break.

I would like to congratulate the following Year 8s for racking up the highest number of distinctions since the beginning of the Summer Term.

Jannatul A. M (8A) – 13

George A (8C) – 11

Abiwaran P (8E) – 11

Adam P (8E) – 11

8E had the most distinctions of any of the Year 8 Forms on 160 distinctions.

We would like to wish the Y8s a restful as well as productive half-term break as they prepare for their Y8 assessments. They should look to their Google Classrooms for specific instructions on what topics are on the exam, and how they will be examined.

9

## Head of Year 9 - Ms Marquez-Godoy

As the half term draws to a close, we are delighted to celebrate the success of our Year 9 Athletics Team, who won the Nottingham City Athletics championships for U14s. Special congratulations go to the following students for their superb achievements:

- Gabriel O who won gold in the 100m, 200m and 300m races, creating two county age group records. Gabriel has also qualified for the English schools National Championships as he is ranked 2nd in the country for 100m and 200m.
- Tarun B who won silver in the 800m, with a new personal best time.
- Sofia C who won silver in both the 800m and 1500m, with two personal best times.

Over the half term break we are certain that students will be focusing on revising for their upcoming exams. The year group have attended assemblies about managing their revision and making use of a range of strategies: we hope that this has prepared them well for the challenges ahead. Although it is, of course, important that revision is taking place, we do also hope that some rest and relaxation is planned.

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## Head of Year 10 - Mr Paul Allison

I would like to use this summary to focus on year 10 success inside the classroom and outside. A total of 296 distinctions have been awarded to year 10 students in the first four weeks of the summer term, which is testament to the hard work they are doing in the classroom in a plethora of subjects. Congratulations to the following individuals who have been awarded the most in the year group.

Elizabeth CV, Shane E, Emily B, Henry B, Jack A, Shaza A, Benedict H, Charles D, Umair N and Arush D.

In the distinction form competition this term, the totals are as follows

1st – 10E 69

2nd – 10D 66

3rd – 10A 65

4th – 10B 53

5th – 10C 43

Congratulations to the year 10 Boys and Girls Athletics teams for qualifying for the Regional Final of the English Schools Cup. This is a national competition and the students qualified through the county round two weeks ago. They travel to Derby after half term.

Congratulations to all the year 10 DofE groups that got through their training expedition and will now do their qualifier during half term.

Congratulations to all the year 10 students that are performing in the musical 'Joseph' after half term.

11  
to  
13

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

Our 2024 Leavers' last day of school was celebrated last Thursday with the traditional wearing of Hawaiian shirts and good humoured fun followed by their Ball at Colwick Hall. As ever we were impressed with the glitz and glamour on show – dresses, suits and cars – and the warm summer evening made for a relaxed atmosphere, making the most of the decking and gardens. Y13 and Y11 are now well underway with their exams and it has been good to see so many students coming in to ask for support and last minute advice from teachers. Y12 meanwhile have been extremely busy; engaging with the platform Unifrog to shortlist destinations and to find helpful webinars and courses to enhance their applications, completing UCAS forms and starting to consider content for their personal statements. The product of several months of dedication and hard graft, EPQs have been submitted now. We saw some superb and varied presentations last week on their chosen areas of research; well done to all Y12s involved. We have welcomed Y10 into our daily tutor sets to join our Y12 students and we are working closely with them as they move towards the second year of their GCSEs. We wish all students a productive half term, with hopefully some rest possible in amongst the ongoing revision.



Please find the School Term Dates for both 2024/25 and 2025/26 [here](#).



### Young Creative Awards winner Anya B (Y11)



In March, I submitted an entry to the Young Creative Awards - a competition for Nottingham based young people which features a variety of categories. I entered a story based on my grandfather's childhood and his journey from India to England. It wasn't extremely conventional, and still isn't to move out of India to forge a new life in England and like many others who do this, my grandfather faced a lot of issues. The story utilises alternating paragraphs and chapters to depict moving backwards and forwards in time weaving the past into the present. It charts my grandfather's journey from Bombay to Naples and then to Nottingham itself. After hearing I was shortlisted, we attended a Ceremony at Nottingham Playhouse where all the work was exhibited and I found out I won! The whole evening was extremely exciting with numerous musical performances and an inspiring speech from Kadiatu Kanneh Mason about the importance of creativity and how that was instrumental in raising the musical Kanneh Mason family. Being a part of this ceremony was amazing and a truly unforgettable experience.



You can read Anya's story [here](#).



### Nottinghamshire AAA's County Athletics Championships 2024

The following students competed in the county athletics championships in early May. The times and distances they have achieved rank them highly in the country. Some have already gained the standards to qualify for the English Schools National Championships in July.

Gabriel O – 100m, 200m & 300m – Gold – Two county age group records – Gabriel has also qualified for the English schools National Championships as he is ranked 2nd in the COUNTRY for 100m and 200m



Tarun B – 800m – Silver – Personal best time

Sofia C – 800m and 1500m – Silver – two personal bests

Katie G – 1500m – Gold – Katie has qualified for the English Schools Nationals

Annie F – Multi eventer – Annie won four medals and is competing in the County Pentathlon.



### Chess Success

Alex M Year 8 finished third in the Nottinghamshire MegaFinals Chess Tournament Under 14s section on Saturday. He played really well beating much higher rated opponents. He won four, drew one and lost only one match. Congratulations Alex.

All results can be found [here](#).





Nottingham High School presents

# JOSEPH

AND THE  
AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

School Production

LYRICS BY TIM RICE      MUSIC BY ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

25th & 26th June 2024  
7:00 pm  
The Founder Hall Theatre



Nottingham High School's Drama and Music departments proudly present this year's Lower School production: 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'.

Travel back in time to Canaan and Ancient Egypt! Meet Jacob, Joseph, his many Brothers, and the mighty Pharaoh, as they sing and dance their way through this musical, Biblical story!

Our talented students from Year 7 - 10 have been working tirelessly onstage and behind the scenes to bring you this beloved musical from Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice.

The performances will take place on Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th June at 7:00pm in The Founder Hall Theatre. Tickets are free but are expected to go quickly - so snap them up while you can!



Click  
or  
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## Update from Young Enterprise

On Monday 20th May, our Young Enterprise team, Screensaver, took part in the East Midlands regional finals at Leicester City Hall.

They were interviewed by a panel of local entrepreneurs including Steve Thai of Ocean King Ltd who won Great British Entrepreneur in 2023.

They then presented their business journey in front of 200 guests – word perfect and very professional. To say we were proud of them is an understatement - they nailed it.

They scooped up the award for 'Best finance' but unfortunately did not win the overall award. On the bus home, with motivational music playing they collectively decided to carry on the journey with Screensaver and the move into the overseas market (they have an order with a school in Dubai) and the dementia/care market following a call with Alzheimer's UK.

Never give up...Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, Arianna Huffington and Jeff Bezos all failed at the first hurdle. Keep going Screensavers!



## Year 10 Geography Field Visit

The Year 10 Geography students recently enjoyed their field visit to the Holderness coast. This is an essential part of their GCSE studies and proved to be an excellent day. The students work extremely well to collect the data from the various sites and they are now hard at work collating and analysing this in class. There was torrential rain in Nottingham on the day of the trip, but apart from some fog along the coastline we were able to stay dry and complete all of the data collection. During the day there was excellent questions from the students, demonstrating curiosity and a real interest in their temporary surroundings. Well done to all the students and thank you to all those staff that supported the day.



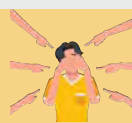
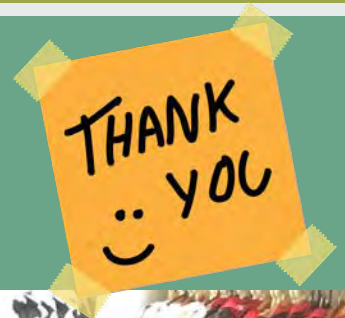
## Thank you from Student Services

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who has donated uniform and sports kit. These items are resold at a discounted price to raise money towards our greatly important bursary fund. The bursary fund is used to provide financial assistance to students who might not otherwise be able to access education at Nottingham High School. The Bursary Fund is currently assisting 100 students! For more information on our bursary fund, including ways to donate, please [click here](#).

So far, through the resale of uniform and sports kit, we have raised over £2500.

With end of term clear outs in mind, please consider donating good quality sports kit or school blazers/ties so that so we can raise even more towards funding student places. Our drop off point is the Student Services Office every day between 8am and 4pm.

Purchases are available via Student Services, please contact us at [studentservices@nottinghamhigh.co.uk](mailto:studentservices@nottinghamhigh.co.uk) for more information.



## Update from PSHE

On Monday 20th September Year 7 had the opportunity to do a workshop with Upfront Theatre Company on the topic of 'The Awkward Chat – Bullying/Relationships'. They are an educational theatre company that provides interactive and engaging workshops exploring various themes from the PSHE curriculum. This workshop links in with aspects that we have already covered in PSHE this year, such as bullying, prejudice and discrimination as well as topics which are still to come, including consent and relationships. The session is designed to be very interactive and the students were very engaged in the session. The team from Upfront Theatre Company described our Year 7 students as kind and described their contributions and answers to the sessions as thoughtful and well considered. We hope they all enjoyed the session and we've included some of their feedback.

*'The session with the Upfront Theatre Company was a highly engaging way to learn about how to manage relatable scenarios' – Clemmie*

*'I enjoyed the workshop produced by The Upfront Theatre Company as it was interactive and informative. I felt as if it really helped educate me on bullying and what to do if you experience or witness it. I especially liked the interactive part where we had to pick out the myths.'* - Rose





## Message from the Director of Sport - Mr Whitehead

It has been a frustrating start to the summer term of sport in many ways with the weather dictating much of what we have been able to do. That said both student athletes and staff have been working very hard to develop their skills ready to play. The challenges of the season have definitely challenged the resilience of all, but reminds us that we all have to overcome setbacks in life. I came across a couple of sport related articles on this which I feel are worth sharing.

Links are [here](#) and [here](#).

Finally the following article also piqued my interest; it's not often that being poor in a field can seemingly give you an advantage in others.

Looking forward to seeing many of you playing and supporting school sport throughout the rest of the year!

How Playing Sports, Even Poorly, Can Make You More Successful in Business  
Even lousy athletes learn leadership skills that help them in their careers.

By [Judy Mandell](#)

If you think the only benefit of playing sports is pleasure and amusement, think again! There's mounting evidence that playing sports can transfer into your professional career and help you climb to the top.

Greg Spillane believes playing football at San Diego State University taught him a lot about business and leadership. Now, as the Chief Operating Officer at Events.com, a cloud-based application connecting people with the experiences they love, Mr. Spillane tries to hire former athletes because he believes that they understand and value hard work, accountability, competition, and being part of a team.

"In football, there are winners and losers on almost every play," says Mr. Spillane. "Whether its two linemen battling over the line of scrimmage, a receiver matched up against a cornerback, or a running back taking on a blitzing linebacker, somebody is always trying to beat you. In business, you are competing against other companies in your space. Your employees are your team and you spend your time preparing to beat your competition. Having people on your team who are competitive, who can work within a team environment, and who understand the importance of hard work can give you a heads up in business.

To succeed in a competitive world you have to be relentless in your desire to win."

"Athletes are accustomed to failure, adversity, and success," says Scanlon. "All of this revolves around the drive to compete."

Brian Scanlon, national recruiting coach at a company that provides guidance in the admission to a school that best meets the athletic ability and academic goals of a student, quotes the NCAA as saying 'Most of us will go pro in something other than our sport.'

"Athletes are accustomed to failure, adversity, and success," says Mr. Scanlon. "All of this revolves around the drive to compete. Athletes enter the world of business with the ability to wake up and compete on a daily basis. It is ingrained in their DNA to have a competitive drive and strive for success. Because of this, athletes are enticing hires for companies. There is no straight line in business success. There is no straight line in athletic success. The ability to fail and keep moving forward is shared by athletes and business folk alike."

But it's not just athletes from the collegiate level who are more likely to succeed in business. Two recent studies published in the Journal of Leadership & Organizational Studies found that the 43 percent of high school students in the United States who have played sports tended to have more leadership, self-confidence, and self-respect. "This is good reason to pay attention to the role of high school sports since it's such a relatively broadly shared experience," says lead author Kevin Kniffin, visiting assistant professor at Cornell University's Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management.

The study also found that even those who played high school sports as far back as 50 years ago showed significantly higher (actual) leadership, self-confidence, and self-respect. Mr. Kniffin observed that many of the people who were decades removed from high school were convinced they had been hired into their current jobs (totally unrelated to sports) because of interview conversations about their high school playing days (e.g., having their high school's softball record for batting average).

We think of the major team sports as obvious skills that translate to business are teamwork, flexibility, and leadership. But Peter Land, who teaches Business of Sports at New York University, points to qualities inherent in solo pursuits that can be equally potent. Like tennis. "When you are serving, whether you succeed or fail cannot be blamed on anyone else," says Mr. Land. "You have control in that moment and you have to deliver. True leaders need to know what it's like to take responsibility for their actions. Whether it's tennis, golf, running, or something similar, that concept of owning the moment is critical."

Playing sports is often considered a guy thing, but the expectation that sports can help your career holds for women as well as men. An October 2014 report by the EY Women Athletes Business Network and ESPNW showed that a sport background can help accelerate a woman's leadership and career potential and has a positive influence on hiring decisions. The report included new and previous research about women at all levels—from girls to rising young leaders to C-suite executives.

Although this report showed that sports can play a positive role in developing leadership skills of female executives and a sports-oriented background can be a useful tool for women who are seeking to climb to the top, it concluded that a strong sports player doesn't automatically translate into a strong corporate manager.

"To continue to strive under conditions of failure shows determination, the ability to handle frustration, and resiliency."

What if you're a lousy athlete?

As a former athlete (a competitive high school swimmer), now an executive in the sports industry (director of media strategies & communications at ONE World Sports, based in Stamford, CT), and also a parent of two teenage boys who are very active in sports, Rachel Gary is an advocate of sports participation, regardless of skill level. "Many of the traits needed to succeed in sports are similar to those needed to succeed in business, including goal-setting, confidence, discipline and leadership skills," says Ms. Gary. "It is in sports where one learns to work as a team, to earn the respect of fellow teammates and opponents, to learn how to set and achieve goals, to appreciate the importance of winning gracefully, and how to rise again after a difficult loss."

Psychologist Robert Troutwine, President of Troutwine & Associates, a consulting firm that evaluates athletes and coaches in the NFL, NBA, and MLB as well as college teams, points to research that shows that the struggling athlete learns many of these skills more so than the highly gifted athlete. "To persevere when one is not good at something shows a great deal of character," says Mr. Troutwine. "To continue to strive under conditions of failure shows determination, the ability to handle frustration, and resiliency."

While superstar athletes may learn certain life skills that could translate into their future careers, such as public speaking due to experiences interacting with the press, Meredith Whitley, assistant professor and coordinator of Sport-Based Youth at Adelphi University in Garden City, NY and Manhattan, contends that athletes with lesser abilities may learn different life skills that are equally important in their future careers, such as dealing with adversity and regulating one's emotions despite minimal playing time.

Research in the field of sport-based youth development has shown that sport settings that are designed to teach both sport skills and life skills have the greatest impact—short-term and long-term. "That transfer does not automatically occur," says Whitley. "We must create environments in sport settings where athletes are actively planning and practicing the transfer of life skills into other domains. This is applicable for all individuals, regardless of gender, ability, race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation."





## Update from Music

Teatime Concert - Piano

Our 5th teatime concert in our series took place on Tuesday 21st May in the Music Recital Hall. It featured 24 pupils from Y3 to Y12. We had a wide range of genres including Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Contemporary. All pupils conducted themselves professionally, had confidence and performed brilliantly!

Congratulations to everyone that took part!

Otto W & Ms Johnson, Evan L, Harma L, Janice W,  
Nicholas H, Audrey W, Aniket M, Rose C, Alex P,  
Kian F-B, Ishaan D, Avani K, Yilin W, Bluebelle C-R, Eze D, Izzi K, Tomisin F, Kate T, William L, Alice D, Thomas K,  
Tom C, Tanish P, Charles D.



### Reminder for our annual Founders Day Service!



The music department would like to invite you to perform as part of the massed choir on Saturday 15th June. This takes place in St. Mary's Church, Lace Market, starting at 11am.

As always, enthusiasm trumps experience, and if you fancy having a go but haven't sung in a choir for a while (or ever), do come along and give it a try. The parents and staff who sing regularly in the Community Choir are very friendly and we would be delighted for you to join us.

No need to attend all - just choose one to suit you:

Wednesday 5th June: 4.30 – 5.30pm in the Recital Hall (for ONs, staff, parents)

Thursday 6th June: 5 – 6pm in the Recital Hall (ONs, staff, parents - this will be a repeat of the Wednesday rehearsal)

Thursday 6th June: 8 – 8.40am (staff only) – Recital Hall

Thursday 6th June: 1.15 – 1.45pm (staff only) – Recital Hall

Wednesday 12th June: 4.30 – 5.30pm in the Recital Hall (for ONs, staff, parents)

Saturday 15th June: 9am rehearsal/run-through at St. Mary's Church before the 11am service

## Year 13 Leavers BBQ

**Invitation to the Class of 2024 Leavers' BBQ** The Class of 2024 Leavers' BBQ will take place on Friday, 21st June 2024. It is a lovely opportunity to say goodbye to the Year 13s and their parents.

**Venue:** Front Lawn (Senior Dining Hall – wet weather location).

**Time:** 5:00pm – 7:00pm

**Food and drink:** BBQ food will be served in the dining hall and drinks will be available on the front lawn. Please let us know you are attending by completing the Booking Form. We look forward to seeing you there.





# SCHOOL NEWS GALLERY



Year 7 gym challenge completed!



Charity cup cakes in Food for the Rosie May Foundation



The Scalextrics teams are just about ready for the nationals in June.



Year 7 Taster Day



The Under 15A's Hardball team got their first win of the season against Ratcliffe College

# 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!

### Prayer Meetings

The prayer support group meets regularly, and all are welcome. Please contact Helen Bromley (Helen.bromley@sky.com or 07816164550) for details or to join our mailing list.

### Social Media

Don't forget that you can follow us on social media to keep up-to-date with what's happening at the school. Please do feel free to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Flickr](#). A full list of all Nottingham High School departmental social media accounts is available on our website.

### Attendance in School

If you know in advance that your child is going to be absent from School, please apply for an Exeat by emailing [exeat@nottinghamhigh.co.uk](mailto:exeat@nottinghamhigh.co.uk). If your child is ill or unexpectedly absent, please telephone the School Reception on 0115 978 6056 before 8.40am on every day they will not be attending and we will update our registers.

### iParent and iStudent

iParent and iStudent are extensions from iSams and will give you access to important information anytime, 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 and Reporting Analyst at [brearley.za@nottinghamhigh.co.uk](mailto:brearley.za@nottinghamhigh.co.uk).