



July 2017

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

The end of a school year always comes much quicker than anticipated and what a busy term this has been!

All students completed their assessment weeks and the vast majority have made great progress of which they should be proud. There have been so many other experiences for the students this term some of which feature in this newsletter.

Our much anticipated Ofsted inspection came towards the end of the term and we are delighted with our report which has been sent to all parents/carers and is now available on the Ofsted website. It recognises the hard work and support that all students, parents and staff give to the school and the equal emphasis we place on the two elements of our motto: work hard, be kind.

'Good-quality teaching, combined with excellent pastoral and academic support is resulting in outstanding outcomes for pupils.'

If you have not done so already, please do take some time to read the report. The inspection team looked at all aspects of our school and there are many such comments of which we are delighted.

The end of the year also sees us say a goodbye to staff who are leaving us for a new role elsewhere:

Mr Brummitt (maths)
Mrs I'Anson (science)
Mrs Sims (history)
Mr Trasler-Mee (maths)
Miss Weir (science)

We would like to thank them for everything they have done for the school and we wish them all the best for their new posts.

Plans for the next academic year include starting the term with a focus on expectations in terms of presentation, homework, study skills and developing employability skills and independence. Students will experience sessions which focus on each of these skills in the first week of the new term.

We wish all of our students and their families a well-deserved rest over the summer and look forward to seeing them back on Monday 4 September. Thank you for all your support in making our school such a great place for our students to learn.

Mrs J Brown
Head of School

Curriculum News

English

We have had a busy year reading at Nottingham Free School! The majority of students have been engaged in the Accelerated Reader programme and all have been reading every day during DEAR (Drop Everything And Read). Some of our year 9s have challenged themselves to read a classic novel and many of our students have read some of the Carnegie Award shortlist.

In class, year 7 have enjoyed the excellent 'My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece' by Annabel Pitcher, year 8s have read 'Stone Cold' by Robert Swindells and 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck, and year 9s have made a good start on their exam texts: 'Lord of the Flies' by William Golding, 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens and 'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' by Robert Louis Stephenson. During the year 6 transition days, our new students were asked how many books they could read before the start of term; many said at least five books! I wonder how many you could read?

Maths

In April, 80 of our year 7 and 8 students entered the UKMT (UK Maths Trust) Junior Maths Challenge. The UKMT maths challenges are entered by over 600,000 students from over 4,000 schools across the UK and the junior level is aimed at students in year 8 and below. The challenge is a lively, intriguing multiple choice question paper, which is designed to stimulate an interest in maths in large numbers of students as it is entirely problem and logic solving using mathematical knowledge - it is very different to the 'traditional' style questions students see in class and assessments. Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates are only awarded to the top 40% of students nationally. We are really proud of our students with 23 of them securing a certificate; with Max Truman, Dilan Lehane and Thomas Scotney all receiving gold. Following on from this there are opportunities for students to compete in further rounds by invitation only; Dilan Lehane achieved a score of 105 in the junior challenge and although missing out on the Olympiad invitation by one mark (this is for the top 1200 students in the country) he was invited to do the Kangaroo follow on paper. From this paper only the top 25% of students are recognised with a certificate of merit and we are really proud to announce Dilan achieved this award - the first in Nottingham Free School history. We really look forward to seeing what will happen in future challenges.

PE

Race for Life

All students at Nottingham Free School have put in a massive effort during their athletics lessons to complete a Race for Life. The Race for Life was organised by our very own Aaliyah Newton in year 9. Students were asked to collect sponsorship in aid of Cancer Research and ran the race for someone who has been affected by Cancer. On completion of the race all students received a Race for Life medal. The students of Nottingham Free School have outdone themselves once again and have raised over £500.



City Athletics

Year 8 & 9 students took part in the City Athletics at Harvey Haddon in May this year. All students performed exceptionally well. Isaac Hayes qualified to the next round in Long Jump and Aaron Fellows qualified for the next round in the 300m Sprint.

Big Blast Cricket

The year 9 boys took part in the Cities Big Blast Cricket tournament at the new Field of Dreams cricket facility on the Victoria Embankment. The students bowled over their opposition to finish with Bronze medals. A huge well done to Mitchell Riley, Harri Grewal, Toby Randall, John Kirkby, Adyan Salim, Sohail Hussain, Fred Bamford, Hadden Bolstridge, Eesa Hussain and Shazaib Irfan.

The year 8 boys took part in a separate Big Blast Cricket tournament at the same venue. The students played their first heat and made it to the finals day on the 19 July. We are pleased to announce that Harvey Neal, Alex Hale, Finlay Wilson, Farzan Hussain, Zain Mahmood, Gurkirpa Swali, Max Truman and Jode White won the silver medal!

The Great British Dance Off

A huge congratulations to Laaibah Amjad, Holly Sullivan, Adara Gonzalez-Pillay, Anna-Gabriella Pannell, Daisy Wright Leah Iyamah-Arbouin, Keira Winter, Isobelle Asher, Emma Davies, Danica Bowles and Sophia Hollis who took part in the Great British Dance Off finals. The students, parents and Mrs Singleton-Jones had an early train journey to Castle Theatre in Wellingborough. All of the hard work in the weeks leading up to the competition paid off and at the final curtain the group came 15th in the country. This is a huge achievement that everyone at Nottingham Free School is extremely proud of.



GCSE Climbing Trip

The year 9 GCSE students ascended onto the Nottingham Climbing Centre in Basford to get to grips with a new sport. Mrs Singleton-Jones is using the community link to aid all students in their attempt to get the highest point score possible in the practical element of their course. Students were very active throughout the session and did Nottingham Free School proud. A huge thanks to the climbing centre and Mrs Singleton-Jones for organising the trip.

Music

The Summer Concert took place on Wednesday 19 July. We had lots of musical acts as well as the drama enrichment group to entertain us. The students worked very hard showcasing their talents. The audience were very excited to see the concert and were impressed with how much talent Nottingham Free School has to offer.

This year we have had lots of musical competitions and events for students to get involved with. Two students participated in Sing City and won. One student participated in Noise of the Next Generation and won. NFS Big Sing also featured for its second year and 7A took the victory. There is lots of musical talent at NFS and we hope that next year it keeps on growing.

Art

On the 30 June we held our first ever Art Exhibition as part of Sherwood Arts Week. The art enrichment group had been preparing all term creating some lovely work to sell and all classes had the opportunity to showcase their work. The evening was a huge success with lots of parents, grandparents, students, future students and other members of the community in attendance. Our cake stall did very well almost completely selling out of delicious cakes made by the Design and Enterprise department and members of staff. We received a lot of compliments about the standard of the work and this will definitely be a yearly event so look out for it next year.



PSHCE

We are delighted to have won the Drug Aware Award which recognises our provision in school to keep students informed and safe around issues relating to drugs and personal health. Next time that you are in reception, have a look at our certificate.

Duke of Edinburgh

What a year! It's been a year of firsts for Duke of Edinburgh at the Nottingham Free School. We are now a licensed centre and have three members of staff who are qualified to run and verify the course. Students have worked hard with their volunteering, skills and physical sections all year and we have just finished our first bronze award qualifying expedition. There have been a few forgotten essentials, damp rainy nights, and blisters, but all in all we've had an amazing time. The students have excelled themselves in their physical aptitude and we have found it really heart warming to see how supportive

they have been to each other and others. As staff we have seen our students help others when feeling unwell, guide each other through fields of bulls, support each other with putting up and taking down tents and even offering aid to fellow campers. We are so proud of them all for overcoming their individual challenges and we can't wait for bronze and silver awards next year. A massive thank you to Karos Adventure for their fantastic organisation and support. The expeditions have run really smoothly and the staff have been great. Also a massive thank you to the staff who have given up their free time to come out and support the students. A final thank you goes to the students who have been absolutely fantastic.

Staff

To replace staff leaving, and to cope with our increase in student numbers, we have the following staff starting in September. Mrs Douglas is also returning to the science department after her maternity leave.

Mr Bielak (history)
Miss Detton (geography/humanities)
Miss Emerson (science)
Mrs Johal (science)
Mrs Marshall (science)
Miss Moore (maths)
Mr Phillips (science)
Miss Platts (maths)
Mr Sadler-Penn (English)
Mrs White (maths)

We wish them all a warm welcome to our school community.

Attendance

You will have already received a letter from the Education Welfare Service to inform parents that after the recent high court case, fines will be issued again to parents who take their child/children out of school for holidays or other unauthorised absences during term time.

Good levels of attendance have a direct impact on the progress of students and we aim for all students to have at least 98% attendance in order to support their learning.

Please try to avoid making medical appointments during the school day and be aware that your child's attendance will be affected if they miss their register mark at 8.15am or 1.20pm. Appointments made in between these times will not affect their attendance. If you request any time off school for any other reason you must complete a leave of absence form, available from reception or on the school website.

Our term time dates for the next academic year are all on the school website (Information – Term Dates – Related Downloads).

Students with an attendance of 98% or more have been receiving their rewards in exchange for their attendance tokens which they have earned over the course of the year.

Communication Home

Just a reminder that the majority of communication home is now by text and email. Please make sure that you send any new numbers and email addresses to school to ensure you receive all of the information sent out.

All letters and newsletters are also available on our school website (under the information tab). The recent reports for students have been uploaded onto Insight (paper copies will only be provided on request). Please let us know if you have not received any messages or have not been able to log onto your Insight account - all contact with school for general enquiries can be dealt with through contact@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk

Student safety

Road safety: we have had a number of complaints and concerns raised about the safety of students crossing the road directly in front of school. We do remind students that there is a crossing a very short walk away which should be used. Please can parents support us with this message and not encourage students to cross directly opposite school.

A large number of cars are starting to drop off and pick up children at the yellow zig zags outside school. These are there to create a clear safety zone and any cars using this space to stop compromise the safety of our students. There are spaces further down the road which can be used safely and only require a very short walk into the building.

Again, we have received complaints from local residents and other parents about the dangerous double (and sometimes triple) parking close to the school entrance. This is not something that we are able to deal with directly and all complainants are advised to contact the police community support officer. We would appreciate the support from parents in not putting us in a difficult position with our local neighbours and community over this matter.

Internet safety: as per our previous message SnapChat, used regularly by many children and young people, have launched a new feature. SnapMaps allows users to see the location of their contacts. This feature allows others to accurately pinpoint where you are which can compromise the safety of users as others can see exactly where they are. There are three possible privacy settings:

- Ghost mode, where only you can see your position;
- My Friends mode, where any contact can see your location; and
- Select Friends mode, just those who you choose can see you

We would advise that all students who use SnapChat, check their settings and ensure that they are in Ghost mode.

ChildNet have posted a thorough explanation of SnapMaps and how to ensure users stay safe. If we are all to protect children, we need to have at least a working knowledge of the risks and uses of such apps so this website is well worth a read. For more information please visit: <http://bit.ly/2tc6suU>

Community Activities

Attached to your child's copy of the newsletter, there is also a free family gym pass and information leaflet about art events at Nottingham contemporary.
Looking for other things to do over the summer holidays? Have a read of these, free family activities:

Everyone's invited to enjoy Nottingham's best-ever summer of fun: free and low-cost events!

- Summer 2017 is set to be the best ever in the city, with everything from amazing new events like the world-exclusive Dinosaurs of China Exhibition and the British Triathlon Mixed Relay Cup – which will be broadcast live on the BBC - to popular free family events like Riverside Festival and the Beach, as well as smaller community events taking place in neighbourhoods across the city. For families with young children who will be off school from 27th July – 30th August, there's no shortage of fantastic things to do, from the £1 a day School's Out scheme, to free events in parks and around the city at New Art Exchange, Nottingham Contemporary and many more. For more information please visit: www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/summer

Nottingham Contemporary - You will take a journey around the galleries with one of Nottingham Contemporary's insightful Gallery Assistants who will talk to you about the pieces that inspire them. They'll share with you their own interpretations and encourage you to see the art from your own perspective. For more information please visit: <http://bit.ly/2tTP3qr>

Future key dates

25/7/2017	Last day of term – please note that school will finish at 3.35pm
4/9/2017	First day of term – please note that school will finish at 3.35pm
5/9/2017	Second day of term – please note that school will finish at 3.35pm
6/9/2017	Third day of term – please note that school will finish at 3.35pm
7/9/2017	Fourth day of term – normal finish time of 4.45pm
8/9/2017	Fifth day of term – normal Friday finish time of 2.45pm
20/10/2017	Break up for half term
30/10/2017	First day back after half term

15/12/17 Break up for Christmas

Please note that after feedback from parents and staff, we have decided to hold one tutor review day next year rather than two. This will take place in March. As always, if you have any questions at all related to school, please contact your child's tutor in the first instance.

All school calendar and term dates are published on the school website.

