



Nottingham Free School Newsletter

July 2016

From the Head of School

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

As we approach the end of the second full year of Nottingham Free School it's a fantastic feeling to reflect on all of the achievements of our school community.

Our students have enjoyed a very successful year and are looking forward to the challenges which lie ahead, particularly the start of GCSE courses for those moving into year 9, and those in year 8 will be making their option subject choices. Our new year 7 cohort have also enjoyed a wide variety of transition activities and were made to feel very welcome by all of our current students.

Part of our unique situation is increasing by a new year group every year, and as part of this we need to review our systems and structures. In order to continue to deliver a quality catering service, we have trialled a split shift system and a 'family dining' style lunch arrangement. Student feedback after the trial was very positive and we will be using this feedback to refine the system ready for September.

We finish the year with three activity days based on a theme of 'Around the world in 3 days'. During this time, students will work in mixed year groups and experience a variety of activities including planning a round the world trip, creating totem poles, mendhi hand painting and science experiments from around the world.

This term we sadly say goodbye to three staff: Miss Nicholls (drama) is embarking on an exciting adventure travelling around the world, Mr Cocks (PE) is starting a training programme with our Teaching school and Miss Rooney (PE) is returning to her full time post at NUSA. We thank them for all of their hard work and support at Nottingham Free School and wish them the very best for the future.

Please take some time to read the articles in this newsletter which celebrate the wide variety of activities we have enjoyed during this term.

I wish you all a happy and relaxing summer break and thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing all of our students back on Monday 5th September.

Kind regards,

Mrs J Brown

Last Day

Please be aware that our last day of term is **Friday 22nd July and we finish at the earlier time of 2pm**. The school bus will leave shortly after this.

Attendance and holiday dates

Please note that our first day of the new term is **Monday 5th September**. Please remember to check the term dates on the school website to ensure family holidays are not booked during term time as fines are likely to be issued.

UKMT Maths Challenge

On 28th April 80 students from year 7 and 8 took part in the UKMT junior maths challenge.

We are pleased to announce that the following students gained certificates.

Year 8 - Silver Certificates

- Khulh Elgaredi 80 (Also best in school and best in year group)
- Danica Bowles 79
- Molly Doran 78
- Aamina Sharif 71
- Sophie Hayes 71

Year 7 - Silver Certificates

- Alex Hale 68 (Also best in year group)
- Solly Worth 67

Year 8 - Bronze Certificates

- Sophia Hollis 64
- Jack Rowley 60
- Haroon Malik 60
- Nasua Iyamah 59
- Izzy Phillips 58
- Mitchell Riley 56
- William Sutton 56
- Fred Bramford 56
- Harriet Lancley 55
- John Kirkby 55
- Emily Cunningham 54
- Luis Russell 52
- Larysa Hayes 51
- Ademola Akanji 51

Year 7 - Bronze Certificates

- Joe Bailey 61
- James Hutchinson 57
- Max Truman 55

- Dylan Hill 55
- Saira Bano Mehmood 55
- Finlay Wilson 54
- Sonny Woods 54
- Harley Simpson 54
- Daniel Dydra 53
- Cariad Hargan Hughes 53
- Matthew Baggleley 52
- Seth Richards 51

A huge well done to all students who took part this year and we are already looking forward to next year's challenge.

Mrs Farnie

Inspirational trip to NTU Degree Show

My trip to the NTU degree show for GCSE Design

Every year at Nottingham Trent University they hold a degree show for people who have completed their product design course and any course to do with design. Everyone who is doing Product Design for GCSE was given the opportunity to go to the degree show. When we arrived we looked at the displays of the work people had done. Our first stop was at all of the furniture that everyone had created for their degree, some of it was incredible. We then went to the fashion. Then we went down stairs to the medical advances. We saw ways of helping people learn to walk, how to keep track of tablets that people must take, diabetic machines and more. Later we went downstairs to look at all of the kitchen and house designers. We even saw a moveable bar that turned into a table! As we went around they had lots of books about the courses and each person whose product was shown. I really enjoyed the trip because I saw what I could do in the future and what I could make.

Milly Cunningham-Siddall Year 8

"Do you know St. Maureen at all?"

On Friday 15th July, Nottingham Free School performed their production of Millions by Frank Cottrell Boyce at Djanogly City Academy's theatre. An entertaining tale of two brothers who find themselves embroiled in an exciting, and sometimes terrifying, adventure involving robbers, shopping and lots of money, Millions also addresses important issues: the difference between right and wrong, family, love, growing up and loss.

The whole cast gave incredible performances and worked hard together as a team, although special credit must go to Cariad and Harvey who simply shone as the two brothers, Damien and Anthony. The audience loved it, as did the audience of Year 2 students from Djanogly Northgate who came to watch our dress rehearsal.

Thank you to everyone who was involved and supported the event. The only downside was that we couldn't do a second night! Roll on next year's show!

Miss Britten & Miss Nicholls

School Council - Charity fundraising

At Nottingham Free School we have decided to do some fundraising for a charity called Ataxia UK. Ataxia UK is a charity which helps people living with Ataxia their families and their carers.

Ataxia is a medical condition that affects people's brains causing them to have trouble with balance and coordination.

People with Ataxia struggle to walk, drive and work. A student in year 8 suggested that we fundraise for the charity because her Mum has Ataxia-Episodic Ataxia Type 1. It may be genetic and therefore we as a school are supporting the charity, helping the family.

Before we break up we are doing many things to fundraise;

- Face painting and craft stalls on sports day.
- Refreshments stall at The Millions performance (15 July).
- Non uniform day (22nd July - the last day of school).

Please help us to raise money for the charity and help them find a cure.

STEM Challenge day

On 7th July, twelve year 8 students took part in a Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) day at Vision college in Mansfield. Our students had to work in pairs in teams with another school to complete a series of STEM challenges. These included making a car that runs on a motor out of kinex, programming a robot to perform a series of challenges and creating an e-fit of a suspect. The group did extremely well and special congratulations go to Grace Arnell and Sophie Hayes who won the e-fit challenge and Danica Bowles and Milly Cunningham-Siddall who won the overall day. The two overall winners will now be competing in the national final in the autumn. Well done all!



Mrs Douglas

The Big Sing!

Nottingham Free School's Big Sing was held on Thursday 14th July. All students, grouped in their music classes, sang in front of one another for a chance to win the Big Sing trophy and show off their singing voices! The judges had a difficult task but the winners, 8b, were recognised by the whole school as a group of confident and tuneful singers. Great participation was seen by the students and many groups got the audience clapping, tapping or waving in time. It was a great example of the positive experience of singing together and the students impressed us all with their support for one another.

On another musical note, the enrichment group, STOMP, enjoyed their first performance during sports day which went really well and added to the excellent atmosphere.

Miss Wilson

Spanish

Students have been working extremely hard this year to master vocabulary in a variety of topics and become more confident in using the Spanish language.

There has been an array of interesting lessons throughout the course of the year and most recently, students have been trying out some peer teaching of their own which they have really enjoyed. Students have been using flash cards to practise their memory techniques and have been winning points for fantastic effort and contribution in lessons. We have used iPads to practise interactive activities and all students have recently completed an extended piece of Spanish writing on holidays, in which many are using a variety of tenses and opinions, which is excellent.

We had several students take part in the Spanish Vocabulary Challenge, which was an opportunity to impress with their vocabulary acquisition and some of our students have been reading and translating authentic news articles in Spanish.

We have made a link with a Spanish school in Castellón, Spain and so many of our students now have Spanish pen pals with whom they are communicating via email. We are looking forward to our first Year 9 trip to Spain next year, when students will have the opportunity to meet their pen pals and visit the school, amongst a host of other activities. A successful year for Spanish at NFS and exciting times ahead!

Miss Tervit

Sports Day 2016

Nottingham Free School hosted its first ever House Sports Day. It was a brilliant day enjoyed by all. There was a friendly and supportive atmosphere and there were so many fantastic performances. Records were broken this year and their names have now been added to the hall of fame on the PE section on the website. The following students who broke the records were:

- Nia Pennant (800m)
- Stella Staniak (shot putt & Standing Long Jump)
- Harley Simpson (200m)
- Euan Iremonger (400m)
- Finlay Wilson (800m)
- Jake Dinnell (Standing Long Jump)

Congratulations also to Torvill who won the first ever House Sports Day!

We look forward to next year's sports day where I am sure plenty more records will be broken!

Mrs Gray

House Cup Winners - Hawksley

With the introduction of the house system this year we have seen students competing for their house in a variety of competitions each half term. Each half term, the prize is alternated between £60 for the house and a reward party. Hawksley have been the dominate house winning 3 of the competitions and then the other houses winning one each.

When all the points were taken into consideration including negative points, the winning house for the overall cup was HAWKSLEY!!! Congratulations to all the students in Hawksley who have fought so hard to win the majority of the competitions. The order of the other houses were:

1. Hawksley = 22956
2. Torvill = 21729
3. Clough = 21338
4. Potter = 20963

Well done everyone and bring on the competition next year!

Mrs Gray

Sherwood Art Week (SAW)

Students in both years took part in several events during Sherwood Arts Week in June. The week started with the artist trading card swap, where ten of our Year 8's mini artworks were chosen to distribute into the community, soon we will receive ten cards from different local artists to complete the swap! Year 7 portraits and Year 8 still lives were on display at the Sherwood library during the week.

The finale of the week was the Remarkable Recycling Gala on Sunday where a lot of work produced by our pupils was on show-all with one thing in common, they were all made using recycled materials! Each piece was individual and inspired by culture, environment or personal interests, the work looked great and I was really proud of all that Year 7 & 8 had achieved and contributed to SAW 2016.

Mrs Wilken



Key dates

All dates are available on the calendar on our school website. Please check regularly for updates.

5th September	First day back for all students
6th October	Review day – students only attend school for their tutor interview with parent(s)/carer(s)
24th – 28th October	Half term – school is closed
31st October	First day back after half term
16th December	Last day of the term – break up for the Christmas holiday



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