



July 2018

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

As the school year closes, I continue to be delighted with all that our school achieves together as a community. We all continue to work hard to ensure a balance between academic studies and developing wider skills; the students never cease to amaze me with their dedication, talents, positive attitudes and the kindness they so often demonstrate to each other and the community as a whole.

Our tweets, website news stories and newsletters give just a glimpse of the range of activities that are provided for them throughout the school year. As we plan for our Post-16 provision, some of our year 9 & 10 students have been reflecting on what makes us unique. So many of them recognise the caring ethos our school community has and how well the staff know the students. We have been busy this week taking pictures for our Post-16 prospectus and this will be available during September.

A highlight of this term was our first exchange visit with our Chinese sister school: Siyanqi Middle School in Ningbo. We hosted 24 students, 3 teachers and 3 interpreters for a week and great fun was had by all. The Chinese students fitted in very well and made some great friendships during their time with us. We were all impressed with their friendly, kind and generous nature and so many of our students were really sad to see them go. What a great experience for all students to be able to spend time with their peers from a different culture and we are looking forward to our trip to visit them.

The school show was a fabulous celebration of the artistic talents of so many of our students.

Our year ended with our traditional three activity days. Mrs Wilken and Mrs Barrett planned a creative and informative programme for all students. Years 7 & 8 'travelled around the world in three days' whereas years 9 & 10 experienced a wide range of careers based activities. These are absolutely vital in ensuring that all of our students experience the full range of future options in order to make fully informed decisions.

The end of this year we say a sad good bye, to Mrs Howard, Miss Nicholls and Miss Rice, we wish them all the very best in their new positions. We also wish Mrs Clarke all the very best as she leaves us to go on maternity leave.

As we look forward to having our very first year 11 cohort next academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all students, parents and carers for their support over the past year. I wish you all a happy, sunny summer.

Mrs J Brown
Head of School

Curriculum News

Art

Our second big annual art exhibition was another big success with excellent attendance by both parents, students, staff and members of the wider community. Many of our students from both KS3 and KS4 were proud to show off the work that they had produced this year. As always the standard of work produced by our talented students was admired and we received lots of lovely comments about the work. Next year we will be showcasing our first year 11 GCSE cohort- with the standard they are working to in year 10 it'll be interesting to see what they are capable of next year.

Humanities

Year 7 Highfields Trip - Geography and Science - A successful sunny field trip on 2nd July for year 7 students collecting their micro climates data, completing their orienteering trail and pond dipping for science. All students were able to collect a range of data in which they are now analysing and drawing conclusions from in their lessons.

Year 9 and 10 Geography trip to Hornsea - Despite weather conditions and strong tides, year 9 and 10 successfully completed their day trip to Hornsea in Yorkshire, for their Geographical Applications and Skills paper 3. All students engaged well in each of the fieldwork activities, worked well as a team and were able to collect a range of data in preparation for their GCSEs in year 11.

Year 7 History - A brilliant tea party was had by students in 7B and C, to discuss the positives and negatives of the British Empire around the world. Students were assigned a country in which they had to become experts on and inform the other countries in class about the impact of the British Empire. Some students even brought in food to represent their country, which was brilliant.

PSHCE

PC Krane has been in during the last few weeks of term to teach year 7 about knife crime awareness- thank you PC Krane. Year 8 have been learning about healthy relationships and also had a visit from the British Red Cross who ran a workshop on migrants and refugees. Year 9 are currently learning about gender identity which they are finding really interesting and it is sparking lots of discussions and finally year 10 have completed their knife crime campaigns promoting awareness and preparing for their career interviews during the activity days at the end of term.

Science

This term students from the Ningbo party joined our enrichment Crest group and took part in a 'Ditch the Dirt' STEM challenge. We investigated ways of cleaning dirty water as part of our project looking at the global issues around access to water resources. Students were given a challenge of designing a filtering system capable of filtering 100ml in 5 minutes. This project links to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Year 10 Physicist of the Year

On Thursday 28th June Aamina Sharif attended The University of Nottingham to collect her year 10 Ogden physicist of the year award. Each year the university ask each school in the area to nominate a year 10 student who we feel deserves this award. Aamina was nominated due to her hard work in the subject and the effort that she put in to understand difficult concepts. She will continue to probe and ask questions until she fully understands concepts and Mrs Douglas is very proud of her resilience and determination to succeed.

During the evening Aamina got to see a range of experiments, talk to some current physics students and experience a lecture on space physics giving an insight into what it is like to study physics at university. Mrs Douglas was particularly impressed at the number of girls who had been nominated for the award with around 2/3 of the awards going to female students. In a field that is often dominated by men, it was lovely to see so many girls inspired by physics and interested in studying physics at university.

Will you be your year groups 'Y10 physicist of the year'? If you are interested in physics and taking physics at A-Level and beyond then come and talk to Mrs Douglas.

PE

Year 7 Rounders (July): The year 7 rounders team were unstoppable in the first 2 rounds of the qualifiers. Beating the Nottingham High School, Oakwood and Ellis Guilford. The girls qualified for the Year 7 Rounders School Games City Finals on Thursday 5 July as winners of their group and were to meet the High School again (who qualified as 2nd in our group), The Nottingham Girls' High School and Emmanuel. The first game against the High School resulted in a 7 ½ each draw, we were narrowly beaten by the Girls' High (7 – 5) and we then beat Emmanuel (12 ½ - 1). As the High School had also beat Emmanuel, 2nd place in the finals went down to rounders scored and as we had beat Emmanuel by a bigger margin, we finished 2nd and the girls all received silver medals for their excellent efforts.

Year 8, 9 & 10 City Athletics Championship (June): A very prestigious 4th place overall for the school this year. From placing nowhere this time last year, this is a massive achievement, especially when coming-up against some athletes who receive high standards of coaching at The Nottingham High School/The Nottingham Girls' High School and externally at Athletics Clubs. Some excellent individual performances to mention from Isaac Hayes (Long Jump), Shannon Birkett (200m), Finlay Wilson (1500m) and a great team performance, with people competing in events to cover other absentees.

Years 9 & 10 Big Blast Cricket: The year 9 & 10 cricket team took part in a 3 week tournament at the Victoria Embankment in June. The students bowled over the opposition and took bronze medals for a second year running. A huge congratulations to Mitchell Riley (c) Harri Grewal, Fred Bamford, Jode White, Alex Hale, Finlay Wilson, Harvey Neal and Gurkirpa Swali.

School Show – Schools Will Rock You!

Performances of Nottingham Free School's first summer musical "School's Will Rock You", featuring a selection of Queen's greatest hits and honouring the great musicians of Rock n Roll on Wednesday 18 July and Thursday 19 July 2018 were a complete sellout. The show showcased the amazing talent, here at Nottingham Free School. Well done to all students who worked together so well on this – you are a real credit to the school. A really big thank you goes to Miss Wilson, Miss Nicholls and Miss Rice who have dedicated so much time to supporting the students – we all really appreciate it.

Post 16 (P16)

Our focus groups this term have been discussing a variety of aspects of our Post-16 provision including what will be in the common/study room, what the dress code will look like and the types of wider activities they would like to participate in. Our wider provision will be carefully designed to ensure all students have a wealth of experiences with which to apply to university or employment. We will be offering activities such as Gold Duke of Edinburgh and a variety of voluntary experiences. For example, supporting younger students with their subject expertise. More information, including our prospectus and dates of our open evening will be available in September.

School Link Programme – China

We have thoroughly enjoyed hosting our visitors from Siyanqi Middle School, Ningbo, China. The twenty four students and three of their teachers spent a whole week with us and experienced a variety of activities that are a normal part of school life in the UK. They participated in many lessons

and particularly enjoyed making and eating a cream tea in a special food lesson. One of the students is a renowned calligraphy artist and a group of our students benefited from her expertise as she held a calligraphy workshop for them during enrichment.

The final farewell assembly saw a number of performances from Nottingham Free School and Siyanqi students and presentations and speeches from staff and students. It was a joyous time together and the students did not want it to end.

Our visit to China takes place in April and will see Mrs Douglas taking ten of our students to visit Ningbo and Siyanqi Middle School. We are already really looking forward to hearing about their experiences and aim to run this trip every two years.

Duke of Edinburgh

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver – The year 9's second practice expedition weekend was on 7th/8th July; students performed incredibly well considering the weather conditions. Most students worked well as a team and were becoming more confident with their abilities in preparation for the real expedition which took place on 21 and 22 July. We are all looking forward to them passing their Bronze award this year. Year 10's completed their 3 day practice expedition on Friday 6th - Sunday 8th July. All were very prepared for the routes they followed over the weekend. On Sunday, Silver students had packed their tents away and were ready to start walking at 7:20am! This shows us how committed they are to passing their Silver and how serious they are about the award. We are all so proud of them and we wish them the best of luck in passing their Silver this year.

Activity Days

Years 7 & 8

The theme for years 7 & 8 was 'Around the world in 3 days'. They experienced a wide range of activities from world dance to Greek theatre to mehndi patterns using henna. They also had time to reflect on the employability skills they have developed over the past term.

Years 9 & 10

For years 9 and 10, the last three days of term were based around careers, post-16 pathways and skills for work. The students found the days informative and enjoyable. We had many speakers coming in to give as broad a view as possible of employment and future choices. Here is what the students were up to;

Year 10s:

- interview training and then interviewed by a local employer for 20 minutes
- attended workshops on skills for work (visiting providers and in-house training)
- listened to speakers on apprenticeships, vocational courses and researching the pros and cons of different post-16 pathways
- met and questioned local employers about their work
- visited The University of Leicester
- shown how to research specific careers and courses that may be of interest the future on a new computer programme

Year 9s:

- prepared for work experience by writing a CV, learning how to apply for jobs and basic interview skills and researching work experience placements
- listened to speakers on apprenticeships, vocational courses and researched the pros and cons of different post-16 pathways
- attended careers talks delivered by a number of volunteer speakers
- visited the University of Nottingham
- had time and guidance to research specific careers and courses that may be of interest on a new computer programme

Allergies

We politely request that no student brings any nuts or food containing nuts into school. We have a number of students with a nut allergy which can be triggered by any contact with nuts. This allergy can be potentially very dangerous and having nuts near to these students will put them at risk.

Governors

We are looking to recruit a non-parent governor to join our governing body. If you know of anyone who would be interested in taking on this vital and rewarding role please do let us know. We are particularly looking for someone with a background linked to education. Please email Miss J. Dunthorne contact@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk with any information, further questions or contact details of any interested parties.

Changes ahead

There are a number of new initiatives next year to look out for. We will be moving to be part of a new catering company in September so watch this space (and our website) for new menus. Payments for school meals will remain the same.

We will also be launching a new homework programme for all students which encourages and develops independent learning and the acquisition and retention of knowledge – all vital skills for GCSEs. Information for parents will be distributed in September.

Please see the relevant sections below for reminders to changes to the timings of the school day and the school uniform.

Timings of the School Day

Just a reminder that the new timings of the school day are as follows:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Reg	8.20- 8.35am	8.20- 8.35am	8.20- 8.35am	8.20- 8.35am	8.20- 8.35am
1	8.35 – 9.20am	8.35 – 9.20am	8.35 – 9.20am	8.35 – 9.20am	8.35 – 9.20am
2	9.20 – 10.05am	9.20 – 10.05am	9.20 – 10.05am	9.20 – 10.05am	9.20 – 10.05am
3	10.05 – 10.50am	10.05 – 10.50am	10.05 – 10.50am	10.05 – 10.50am	10.05 – 10.50am
Break	10.50 – 11.05am	10.50 – 11.05am	10.50 – 11.05am	10.50 – 11.05am	10.50 – 11.05am
4	11.05 – 11.50am	11.05 – 11.50am	11.05 – 11.50am	11.05 – 11.50am	11.05 – 11.50am
5	11.50 – 12.35pm	11.50 – 12.35pm	11.50 – 12.35pm	11.50 – 12.35pm	11.50 – 12.35pm
6/lunch	12.35 – 1.20pm	12.35 – 1.20pm	12.35 – 1.20pm	12.35 – 1.20pm	12.35 – 1.20pm
6/lunch	1.20 – 2.05pm	1.20 – 2.05pm	1.20 – 2.05pm	1.20 – 2.05pm	1.20 – 2.05pm
7	2.05 – 2.50pm	2.05 – 2.50pm	2.05 – 2.50pm	2.05 – 2.50pm	2.05 – 2.50pm
8	2.50 – 3.35pm	2.50 – 3.35pm	2.50 – 3.50pm	2.50 – 3.50pm	
9	3.40 – 4.40pm	3.40 – 4.40pm			

Attendance

Attendance is a key priority at Nottingham Free School as missing school has a direct impact on how well a student achieves. We aim for every student to have at least 97% attendance.

Please see our term dates for the next academic year on the school website (Information – Term Dates – Related Downloads) in order to avoid booking any holidays during term time.

Communication Home

All letters and newsletters are now emailed to you and are also available on our school website (under the information tab).

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

Also a reminder to let the school office know if any of your contact information has changed contact@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk

Our school website will be updated over the summer including the calendar showing all key dates.

Uniform update

From September, the only skirt allowed is one with a logo purchased from our school uniform shop. Our new PE kit will be phased in for current year groups but is compulsory for the new year 7 cohort. Full details are available on the school website, please see Information – Uniform. Our next school uniform shops are on the dates below and items can be purchased at reception on any school day.

Thursday 30 August 2018 - 10am - 2pm

Friday 31 August 2018 - 10am - 2pm

Future key dates

Monday 3 September	First day of term for all students
Monday 3 September	Early finish at 3.35pm
Tuesday 4 September	Early finish at 3.35pm
Wednesday 5 September	Normal finish time at 3.50pm
Thursday 6 September	Normal finish time at 3.50pm
Friday 7 September	Normal finish time at 2.50pm

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