



March 2017

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

As the evening gets lighter and it feels like spring really is here, we mark another productive term at Nottingham Free School.

The Spring term always sees the first assessment week for years 7 and 8, during which they conducted themselves extremely well and demonstrated all aspects of our 'work hard be kind' motto.

We also had two exciting trips; year 7 went on their residential to Walesby scout camp and year 9 ventured on our first ever trip abroad. Both were a great success with all students being real ambassadors for the school. I would also like to thank the staff for their support with these activities, as you can imagine there is a lot of work behind the scenes and I know how important they feel it is to ensure that our students have these experiences. You can read more about these trips later on in the newsletter.

We have started to increase our focus on employability skills this term and are starting a programme of careers talks in order for students to have the opportunity to hear from a variety of people in different careers and ask any questions they might have. We are extremely grateful for the offers of support for this from our community of parent(s)/carer(s) who have already volunteered to give a short talk. If you know of any people who would be interested in helping with this please do let us know.

Students have also had a reminder about the need to develop a level of independence in their learning; a skill greatly valued by universities, colleges and employers. The use of study time, now called 'independent study time' reinforces the need for students to not only complete homework tasks but to review their recent learning by choosing a topic and creating a set of revision resources. This will help to keep all learning fresh and develop the memorisation skills increasingly needed in the new style exams.

We finish the term on Friday with an achievement assembly for each year group; an event which is a lovely opportunity to reflect on all of the hard work and acts of kindness that our students do every day at school. We are a community who value these attributes and each other, of which I and the staff are very proud to be part of. Please do take some time to read the newsletter which gives more details about some of the activities that have taken place in school over the past term.

We wish all of our students and their families a well-deserved rest over the holiday and look forward to seeing them on Tuesday 18 April.

Mrs J Brown
Head of School



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Curriculum News

English

The relaunch of Accelerated Reader is seeing an incredible commitment from students to reading more, incentivising them with quizzes where they score points based on their knowledge of the books they've read. Students can also track how many *words* they've read in total across the course of the year! Prizes are being awarded to students passing an exceptional number of quizzes, as well as those who have read over one million words.

Congratulations to those who have already achieved 'Word Millionaire' status: Finn Wreaves, Alfie Doran, Charlene Nange-Nkome-Ntungwa, Daisy Wright, Lucas Harrison, Solly Worth and Matthew Baggaley.

Ben Lipman-Bolton (Yr 9) has been bestowed the prestigious title 'Lord of the Books' on account of a phenomenal 18 quizzes passed, a reflection of his dedication to reading.

Can we take this opportunity to remind all parents that a reading book is part of the essential equipment list and all students must have a reading book in school every day.

Our students are currently reading even more than usual! The shortlist for the Carnegie Award has been announced and all the students have been challenged to read at least one of these 8 books. The library copies are already in demand. For more information, have a look at the website www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk. Miss Cockayne is starting a year 7 club every Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime where she will be reading one of the Carnegie books to them, starting with Sputnik's Guide to Life on Earth.

In addition, some of the year 9s have been challenged to read a classic novel. They have been given a list of ten and have started on their first one, with the aim of having it finished by the end of the Easter holidays. How many have you read?

Year 9 Classics Challenge

- Brighton Rock by Graham Greene
- Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
- Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
- 1984 by George Orwell
- Catcher in the Rye by JD Salinger
- To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
- Kestrel for a Knave by Barry Hines
- The Great Gatsby by F Scott Fitzgerald
- Animal Farm by George Orwell
- Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen



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Maths

In February, 40 of our top year 9 students entered the UKMT (UK Maths Trust) Intermediate Maths Challenge.

The UKMT maths challenges are entered by over 600,000 students from over 4,000 schools across the UK and the intermediate level is aimed at students in years 9-11. The challenge consists of multiple choice questions designed to stimulate interest in mathematics, 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 and we are really proud of the following students for gaining a bronze certificate; Khulh Elgareidi, Molly Doran and Kaylan Wroblewski. A number of other students only missed out on a certificate by a couple of points and I am sure that as they move through to year 10 and 11 we will see more certificates gained at Nottingham Free School.

Have a go at one of the questions below.

Each of the diagrams below shows a circle and four small squares. In each case, the centre of the circle is the point where all four squares meet.

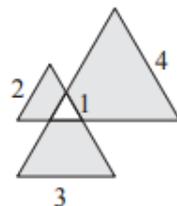
In one of the diagrams, exactly one third of the circle is shaded. Which one?



The diagram shows four equilateral triangles with sides of lengths 1, 2, 3 and 4. The area of the shaded region is equal to n times the area of the unshaded triangle of side-length 1.

What is the value of n ?

A 8 B 11 C 18 D 23 E 26



UKMT Team Maths Challenge

Nottingham Free School took part in the 2017 UKMT Regional Maths Challenge Final and came a commendable 24th out of 28 teams competing against other schools. When taking into account this was our very first attempt at competing, our four students from years 8 and 9 deserve a big well done for never giving up and having a can do attitude.

Future challenges:

27th April - UKMT Junior Maths Challenge (Year 7-8)



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PE

Wimbledon

Mrs Singleton-Jones has secured 9 student tickets for Day 9 of Wimbledon, which is the Men's Quarter Finals Day. Students who have registered their interest in this trip will soon have a letter to take home to parents, outlining the full cost involved. This should be returned by the deadline date printed on the letter, so that names can then be drawn out of a hat. Fingers crossed for the lucky ones!

Winter Sport Fixtures

A huge congratulations to all students who have represented the school in a sporting fixture this year. We have had a record number of students participating, which has resulted in a huge variety of sporting fixtures entered and some outstanding successes. We have entered netball, dance, rugby, football, futsal, indoor cricket and cross country fixtures so far this year, with athletics, rounders and cricket still to come in the summer term. Special mention to the following teams for their amazing results, particularly the latter who are awaiting the date of the school's first National Championships:

- U12 Girls City Schools Futsal Silver Medallists
- U13 Girls Nottingham Schools 5-a-Side Silver Medallists
- Yr 8/9 Girls (Team) Nottinghamshire Schools Cross Country Silver Medallists
- Yr 8/9 Boys (Team) Nottinghamshire Schools Cross Country Silver Medallists
- KS3 Dancers East Midlands Regional Champions of The Great Big Dance Off

PE Kit Reminder

All lessons will be outside after Easter and **all** students need to ensure they have the correct kit, **including** a change of socks.

Boys' PE Kit (Summer Activities)

- **PE Shirt:** Plain navy blue polo top with collar and official logo.
- **Rugby shirt:** Navy blue rugby shirt with collar and official logo.
- **Shorts:** Navy blue shorts must be brought to all lessons.
- **Training trousers:** Plain black/navy - the wearing of training trousers will depend on the activity and the weather conditions and will be at the teachers' discretion, unless you have a medical or religious reason for wearing them. These should be brought **in addition to shorts** and not instead of shorts.
- **Socks:** White ankle socks
- **Footwear:** Trainers (non-marking soles) suitable for sport with ankle support. NB: Plimsolls are not appropriate i.e. vans/converse.
- **Other:** Navy or Black 'skin' tops can be worn underneath the school PE shirt.



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Girls' PE Kit (Summer Activities)

- **PE Shirt:** Plain navy blue polo top with collar and official logo.
- **Shorts:** Navy blue - shorts must be brought to all lessons.
- **Fleece:** Navy blue with official logo.
- **Training trousers/leggings:** Plain black/navy - the wearing of training trousers/leggings will depend on the activity and the weather conditions and will be at the teachers' discretion, unless you have a medical or religious reason for wearing them. These should be brought **in addition to shorts** and not instead of shorts.
- **Socks:** White ankle socks
- **Footwear:** Trainers (non-marking soles suitable for sport) with ankle support. NB: Plimsolls are not appropriate i.e. vans/converse.
- **Other:** Navy or Black 'skin' tops can be worn underneath the school PE shirt.

Music

GCSE Primary Visit - The year 9 GCSE music group visited Haydn Primary School to perform in front of all the students there. There was a variety of instrumental performances such as singing, piano, flute and guitar. The students performed really well and the students at Haydn seemed to really enjoy the performances. The performance helped to prepare our students for their GCSE performance mark and to increase their confidence with performing in front of an audience. Well done to all those who performed.

Big Sing - Big Sing took place at the end of term and is an event where all classes from years 7 and 8 compete for the best performance. The judges look for the most enthusiastic singers and those who are putting 100% effort in to their performance. All classes worked hard in lessons to prepare their songs. Congratulations to the winners, 7a and well done to all who take part.

Don't forget that we have a Spring Showcase on Thursday 27 April where you have the opportunity to hear and see much of the talent that our students have in the creative arts. Please contact the office to reserve tickets.

Humanities

We have had a busy term in humanities. Year 8 recently visited different places of worship in our surrounding area. All of year 8 visited the local Gurdwara or Nottingham Liberal Synagogue in Sherwood. The students had a fantastic time learning first hand about different artefacts and more about what it means to be a Jew or a Sikh in Britain today. We're so lucky to have these vibrant faith communities on our doorstep.

Thank you so much to Bill Landa, and Mike Harris and Shirley at the respective places of worship who looked after us and gave up their time to lead the visits. Also a massive thank you to the students who were superb. A particular thank you to Solly Worth who chanted from the Torah for the students who visited the synagogue.



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Students have been using this experience, along with work on other places of worship in class, to design a multi-faith place of worship. We look forward to seeing their designs after Easter.

We were also lucky enough to have a magistrate visit us. Pete Dexter came to talk to our GCSE philosophy and ethics classes as part of our topic on Crime and Punishment. Pete Dexter delivered a talk to the classes about work as a magistrate and differences between the Magistrate Court and Crown court. It was fascinating to hear him speak and the students certainly got some ideas about future careers. A big thank you to Pete for giving up his time to come and visit us.

PSHCE

It's been a busy term in PSHCE, with year 9 students learning about finance and budgeting thanks to some wonderful volunteers from Nottingham Trent University and Santander.

Year 9 have also been working on their life saving skills and learning how to do CPR, as our lovely volunteer Emma has been back from The British Red Cross.

Some members of year 7 attended a mock United Nations summit at Nottingham Trent University and showed off their negotiating and democratic skills representing a range of different countries. It was a great day with students also getting to find out and sample food from a range of African countries during the University's global week. It certainly opened up their eyes to the exciting and diverse opportunities that University has to offer.

As a school we are also working towards a Drug Aware Award with a variety of activities planned for the next term.

Art

Another successful term of enrichment with the Creative Arts group creating some fantastic work ranging from mod roc men and women to Kandinsky inspired pieces to music and some very intricate clay hands inspired by the Hand of Fatima and Hand of Miriam. Year 7 have continued to impress the rest of the school with their skills in portraiture and created fantastic final pieces and year 8 have been busy creating mess in the art room and covering it in black printing ink to create fantastic monoprints of buildings that are personal to them. The year 9 GCSE group continue to create work of a high standard and have been manually manipulating their fantastic photographs of natural form to make them even better - such a talented bunch!

We're planning an Art exhibition next term to showcase all the amazing work the students have done, this will be taking place during Sherwood Arts Week and will be held in school on Friday 30 June from 3.45pm to 6pm.



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Enrichment

We've had an exciting time in enrichment over the last term. Baking has returned with a vengeance and has proved very popular with the students and it always smells amazing!

We have also had a few new lessons taking place this term. Changing rooms has almost completed the transformation of one of our small group rooms. The students put together different design ideas to suit varied budgets and once these were approved they visited IKEA to buy the furniture, which they spent the last few weeks putting together and painting walls. I'm sure you will agree that these are very useful skills for life.

We have also been lucky enough to have a guest speaker in world studies recently from Amnesty International who talked to the year 9 group about human rights and issues around the world including the death penalty and torture. Students and staff found this talk really inspirational and all students were given a human rights booklet to raise their awareness of these.

Finally, congratulations to the year 7 and year 8 LAMDA students who have just completed their exams. It all went smoothly on the day and we will let you know as soon as the results are in.

Baking Bonanza

A group of year 7 and year 8 students have participated in a baking club during enrichment on Wednesdays for the past 12 weeks. They have made cupcakes, brownies, cinnamon buns and even chocolate beetroot cake. In the final session, the students made their own choice of bake and competed with each other to be crowned overall 'Star Baker'. The winners will be announced on our website and twitter feed after Easter.





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Changing Rooms (DIY)

This term, sixteen students have been busy unleashing their inner Laurence Llewellyn-Bowens as they have really embraced the 'Changing Rooms' enrichment group. As part of this project, students have designed, budgeted and decorated a room at Nottingham Free School, which will be an invaluable resource for students who sometimes need time or space to support with their learning. Students have really rolled up their sleeves to learn practical skills such as painting, using common tools safely, and have even tackled the dreaded flat-pack furniture! Thank you to all the students who took part, you have made a very positive and visible change to the school.

Year 7 Trip to Walesby 2017

From the 8th to the 10th of March, students from Nottingham Free School had the chance to take part in a wide range of fantastic activities at Walesby forest.

Students and teachers were split into groups and sent to do different things at different times. From day one everyone did heaps of exhilarating activities which may have included: 25 foot climb, cave maze, zip wire, assault course and many more your child can tell you about. After everyone was tired we ate a delicious meal, played games, had hot chocolate and went to bed.

On the morning of day two was the lake. The three activities based here were kayaking, canoeing and raft building. After every group was set an activity, we donned our safety gear and set out to the not particularly treacherous, but freezing cold lake. Everyone found all three activities incredible (apart from Mr Trasler because his kayak decided to tip him into the lake, silly kayak). Finally at the end of the day was a brilliant disco where everyone danced, (was it dancing?) their hearts out.

On the final morning we had our remaining two activities (for our group cave maze and archery). After completing these we had lunch, packed our bags, cleaned our rooms and took the coach back to school.

In conclusion everyone found it a fantastic experience and it's definitely somewhere to go again.

Alfie Doran Year 7



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On the 7 March 2017 year 7 went on an exciting trip to Walesby. When they got there the rooms were quite small, but on the good side we all got to share a dorm with our friends, and make new ones. Every day we had a surprise dorm inspection, so we had to keep them tidy.

We participated in many activities, including zip wire, obstacle course, canoeing and other boat activities, archery, cave maze, and climbing. There were also night activities like games night and disco, and there were awards for best dressed to the disco and people who stood out during the day for either showing good leadership and/or behaviour.

Mille (7c) says, "We had lots of fun in the dorms, especially when we were all hanging out together. However, the inspections were a bit tough!"

Amelia and Millie, Year 7

Year 9 Exchange Trip to Castellón

The long awaited departure finally arrived on Friday 10 March and in spite of it being 4:15 am, a lively group of 30 year 9 students set off in the cold for sunny Spain. Spain didn't disappoint.

Our jam-packed programme took place under mostly blue skies and the six days whizzed by. Here are some of the things we got up to:

A sports and activities day with teenagers from our partner school IES Matilde Salvador – on the beach and in the youth hostel. By the end of the day, the Spanish and English students were all mixed in together and chatting away. Most of our year 9s met their "pen pals" and several chose some new ones.

On other days, we toured Castellon guided by the Spanish students, we visited a castle, met the mayor of Castellón (yes really!), went to the aquarium in Valencia, played on the beach, learned a local sport, had a volleyball tournament, watched a film in Spanish, joined in classes with the Spanish students...and much more. There were even tears when we left the Spanish school.

Everybody tried the food in the youth hostel and some even liked it! The NFS students who participated were a credit to their school and country and engaged fully in all the activities and new experiences. We were very proud of them.

And the verdict of our year 9s.....

"It was the best holiday I've ever had"

"I get why we learn languages now"

"I just wanted to be with my mates, but meeting the Spanish was really good fun"



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“The Spanish are really friendly”
“I loved the tapas!”

Students from IES Matilde Salvador will visit us in June 2018.

Student Council

On Friday 24 March it was Red Nose day and to raise money for the cause we said that students could come in non-school uniform, preferably wearing something red. We also had one of our traditional bake sales which as usual did very well! At lunch time students had the chance to compete with a teacher in a penalty shoot-out and so far in total we raised a whopping £429.99 with more sponsorship money expected.

Harley Simpson Year 8

A student's perspective

My favourite part(s) of this term was when 7a got to go to Nottingham Trent University where we got to learn about the United Nations and got to take part in global week, which is an event in which students at the university celebrate a continent. This year, the continent celebrated was Africa and we got to learn about different cultures in the continent.

Secondly, my other favourite part of this term was the year 7 residential to Walesby because we got to take part in lots of activities like rock climbing, zip wiring, cave maze, archery, assault course, kayaking and canoeing even though I did fall into the lake and therefore was unable to take part in raft building which was a real shame.

Thirdly, another exciting part of this term was taking part in LAMDA enrichment because it was fun to take part in different acting groups and we got to take part in an exam which I thought was really enjoyable because it went really well.

Finally, I also got to take part in netball enrichment and got to take part in a county netball match and even though we did not win, it was very exciting.

Overall, this term has been an amazing one.

Charlene Nange-Nkome-Ntungwa Year 7

At Nottingham Free School we have a lot of enrichment options. On Monday and Wednesday we do our enrichment choices including LAMDA, football, multi sports, capoeira, table tennis and much more. At 3.40pm we start our enrichment; for me it's LAMDA and multi sports (which is awesome). In LAMDA, me and my friends had to



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create a piece about an event and at the end of term we did an exam which we practised over and over again. We did our exam, and did really well!

Suki Singh Year 7

Attendance

Good levels of attendance at school are vital for every student. We aim for all students to have at least 98% attendance. If your child is ill please telephone the school office, preferably before school starts. 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. Please note that we do not authorise any holidays taken in term time and you may receive a fine. Our term time dates for this academic year and next are all on the school website (Information – Term Dates – Related Downloads).

If your child has an attendance of 98% or more, they should have been receiving tokens which can be exchanged for free items. The more tokens that are saved, the bigger the reward!

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



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School Meals

The new menus will start on Tuesday 18 April and can be viewed on the school website.

The cost of our supplies has seen an increase recently and as this is already a subsidised service, we have taken the decision to increase the price of our meals starting from Monday 5 June. From that date the costs will be:

Meal deal £2.50

Main meal: £2.10

Dessert only: 40p

Price increases on the individual items sold at break time will be displayed on our website.

Community Activities

Looking for something to do over Easter. Have a read of these two, free family activities:

ParkLives FREE Easter Timetable - From 3 April to 7 April there will be lots of FREE family activities to get involved in, in Nottingham. Ranging from High Ropes and Canoe Rafting at the beautiful Colwick Country Park, to FREE pitch and putt at the 18-hole Woodthorpe Grange Park and fun park ranger activities such as Easter Egg Hunt, Scavenger Hunts and lots more! To find out more please visit www.parklives.com or email parklives@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Nottingham Contemporary - Put yourself in the picture and use your family portraits to create unique works of art. Join Nottingham Contemporary in a workshop as they help select your poses by exploring the things that make you and your family unique. Join the family celebrations as we project your portrait onto the walls of The Space! Your photos will also be available to download for free from the Nottingham Contemporary website. No need to book, just join Nottingham Contemporary on Saturday 1 April - Monday 17 April 11am-3pm, downstairs, in 'The Space' at Nottingham Contemporary. For more information please visit <http://bit.ly/2nDYWFC>



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Future key dates

- 18/4/2017 First day back for all students
- 20/4/2017 Year 9 parent's evening. **Please note that all students will finish school at 3.35pm**
- 24/4/2017 Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh information evening 6-7pm
- 27/4/2017 Spring Showcase event – please request tickets
- 5/5/2017 Year 9 assessment window begins until 12/05/2017
- 24/5/2017 Year 5 Open Evening
- 26/5/2017 Break up for half term
- 5/6/2017 First day back after half term
- 5/6/2017 Year 7 & 8 assessment window begins
- 30/06/2017 Art Exhibition 3.45pm – 6pm
- 25/7/2017 Last day of term – **please note that school will finish at 3.35pm**