



Friday 27 March 2015

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

At the end of a busy term, it is amazing to be able to reflect on all of our achievements as a school community so far. The following items share many of the successes we've experienced as a school and some of the exciting things that are still to come.

Walesby

Our residential trip to Walesby scout camp was a huge success and no doubt a real highlight of the term. Students spent two nights and three days away from home and participated in a whole variety of outdoor activities designed to build teamwork skills, confidence and have fun. Hopefully many of you will have seen the photos displayed on our screen in reception. The most impressive part was how clean the boys kept their dormitories! The Walesby staff contacted us afterwards to say how impressed they were with the behavior and attitude of Nottingham Free school students – well done!

Those students who remained in school had a different curriculum experience as well. They took part in a project about fair trade where apparently chocolate tasting was a necessary part. They also spent a morning at NUASt (Nottingham University Academy of Science and Technology) where they experienced some science experiments in a very different environment and beat the year 10 students at football!

As you can imagine, all of the above takes a great deal of work behind the scenes and I would like to thank all of the staff who supported all the activities during this week, especially Mrs Douglas who organised both trips.

Achievement

Our students continue to make very good progress which many of you were able to discuss with the staff at our recent parents evenings. We celebrate all of our students' achievements in our termly achievement assembly which Mr Cleveley and Miss Tervit lead. It is vital that we recognise the hard work and positive attitudes that our students show on a daily basis. The awards given are all based around our school motto: 'Work Hard, Be Kind'. In addition to those given for positive points and attendance, we also have subject teacher nominations and 'good egg' awards where students nominate each other for demonstrating kindness and support.

Nottingham Free School

The Courtaulds Building, 290 Haydn Road, Nottingham NG5 1EB
01949 863053 | contact@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk | www.nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk

Head of School: Jenny Brown BSc (Hons) Mathematics, PGCE, N.P.Q.H.
Executive Head Teacher: John Tomasevic B.A. (Hons) Econ, Cert.Ed., M.Ed., N.P.Q.H., N.L.E.



Attendance

Our attendance continues to be a strength of the school and I would like to thank you for supporting us with this. As you are already aware, we do not authorise holidays in term time and any holidays taken during school time will be subject to a fine. Our term dates for the next academic year are on our website so please refer to these when booking family holidays.

Extra-curricular

The new extra-curricular programme starts after Easter with many exciting new activities including bikeability, textiles, book club and girl power! Our sports, Lamda and drama groups continue to be popular choices and feedback from the students is always really positive about the range of activities on offer and the wider skills they are developing.

Buildings update

The building work on the rest of our site is due to start straight after Easter and will continue until December 2015. This is controlled by the EFA (Education Funding Agency) and I am only able to release plans when they are sent to me. As soon as I have them, I will make them available to you so you can see how the final building will look. More information is available on our website (see the home page or the building tab) and this will be refreshed as and when we are sent updates. Students have had an initial assembly to inform them about the building works and a health and safety representative from the contractors will be speaking to all students on Monday 13 April. The construction workers will not have any contact with our current area or our students. We are all very excited about the plans and look forward to being able to share them with you in more detail in the near future.

Health services

Just to make you aware of two health services that we have links to in school. The school nurse team, who provide us with monthly drop-in sessions for students. These are held on the last Friday of every month and the dates are advertised on a central noticeboard in school. This is a confidential health service and students are able to turn up on the day or make appointments in advance. We are also able to make referrals to the team so please let us know if you ever need any health advice for your child. Please note that this does not replace a GP service.

We are now linked with a counselling service called Kooth. www.kooth.com who provide an immediate online counselling service for students and we will have a drop-in service in school in approximately six weeks time. Students are able to refer

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themselves to this face-to face service and staff are able to make referrals if we feel this is needed by particular students.

Sherwood Arts week

We are delighted to be participating in Sherwood Arts week this year which runs at the end of June. Students will be making items based on a recycling theme in art lessons and an extra-curricular group and we will enter into the artist trading card scheme. We also have been given a tree to yarn-bomb so any parents/carers/relatives who love to knit, please let us know as we would love to have your support. Knitting details and instructions will go out after Easter.

A few notes:

Water is available at all times in school and so all students need to bring a water bottle with them every day.

All key dates are posted on our calendar on the school website so please do refer to this if you ever need to check an event. We also upload copies of any letters sent home so please do look at our 'Letters to Parents' section under the information tab.

We would be very grateful for any donations of reading books for our library. We continue to add to our stock but if you have any books at home that are no longer needed we would love to have them.

If the school bus is ever late in the morning, we would advise students to remain at the bus stop and contact school (either directly or through parents/carers). We are able to contact the bus company who can tell us the exact location of the bus using their tracker device. If this situation does occur again, on either journey, then we will put an announcement in a red banner on the front page of our school website. Please feel free to contact school to find out information at the time as well.

Your support is always very much appreciated and all the staff at Nottingham Free School would like to wish you and your families a relaxing Easter break.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs J. Brown
Head of School

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