



Nottingham Free School Newsletter

January 2016

From the Head of School

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

I would like to start by wishing you all a Happy New Year and I hope that you all had a restful break over the Christmas period.

The end of term saw the launch of the assessment revision window alongside some fun end of term activities. The Nottingham Playhouse pantomime is fast becoming a school tradition and it is great to see students enjoying the experience together. The Christmas medley performance is always a real highlight and I continue to be amazed by the talent and confidence so many of our students have. Our extra-curricular drama, choir and charity groups all contributed to make the show a great success. As part of that evening, we were privileged to be able to raise money to support the Starfish foundation; a charity who are working with refugees in Lesvos, a Greek Island. The brother of one of our students has been working in a refugee camp and he gave a moving portrayal of his time there.

The students have started term with a focus on their revision and we are providing many different types of support for them with this. One new form of support this year is a focus on mindfulness. This is a stress relieving technique which is being demonstrated to students for a few minutes every day this week. I would like to wish all of our students the very best with their assessments and I know that their hard work will be rewarded.

We would like to e-mail out future newsletters to reduce our paper usage and will be using the email addresses you have provided us with. If you do not wish to receive this electronically, please let us know and likewise please provide us with updated addresses if relevant.

Kind regards,

Mrs J Brown

Attendance

Attendance will always remain a key priority for us as a school. Please remember to check the term dates on the school website to ensure family holidays are not booked during term time. This is particularly important over the Easter break as we many schools have slightly different holiday patterns.

Allergies

As we have a number of children with nut allergies please can we ask that no nuts are brought into school in packed lunches or snacks.

Building update

We are now using our fully completed building and the first day back saw lots of students using their new maps to find new rooms and routes around school. One new space which is a particular favourite is the library; Ms Britten and our student librarians have been very effective at organising the space. It is used for one reading lesson every week and is available most lunch times for quiet reading. Below are some of the quotes we have on the library walls:

"Never trust anyone who has not brought a book with them."

- Lemony Snicket, *Horseshoe*

"If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book."

- J. K. Rowling

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."

- Joseph Addison

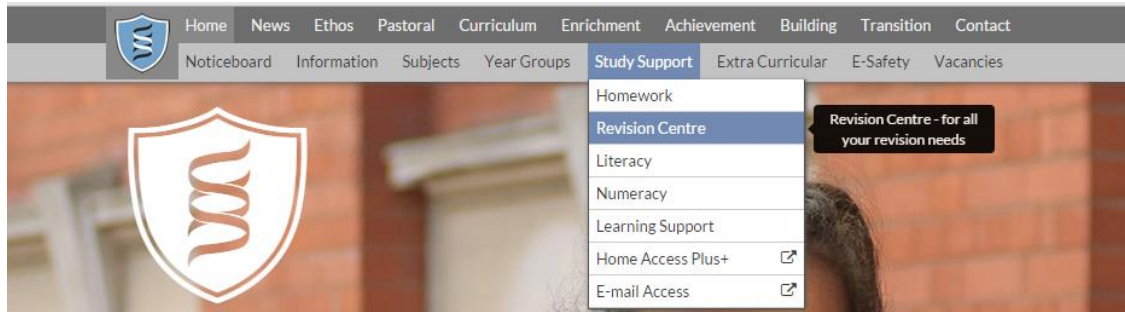
We have received a large number of book donations for the library from students which we are very grateful for. If anyone has any old books they would like to donate we would still love to have them.

School Road markings

Please can I remind all parents that the yellow markings outside school MUST be kept clear and cannot be used as a drop off area. This is to protect the safety of all children.

Revision support

Please visit the study support – revision centre area on the school website for a variety of revision support ideas and materials. All students have been given revision guides for English, maths and science as well. These should last them throughout years 7 and 8.



Bringing books to life

As part of our focus on reading, we have two enrichment opportunities this term to see books brought to life on the stage. Year 8 are seeing Jane Eyre (by Charlotte Bronte) in February and Year 7 have just received letters to see Gangsta Granny (by David Walliams) in March. Both performances are at the Theatre Royal.

Numeracy Ninja's

This term we are having a weekly focus on numeracy and mental arithmetic. Once a week in tutor time, the students will complete a 5 minute numeracy ninja exercise which will earn them a variety of ninja belts. Regular practice on these key skills will help with speed and confidence on skills that are needed in many areas of the curriculum and real-life, not just in maths lessons!

Extra – curricular

SCoRE Schools Collaboration on Resource Efficiency

Congratulations to the science club who last term successfully completed the SCoRE programme on energy and sustainability. Their pledge tree is now on display in reception.



New activities

Our new extra-curricular activities are now up and running. It is always a delight to see students involved in something completely different. Below is the list of activities for the Spring term. We always welcome any offers or suggestions from parents or members of the community who may have contacts for extra-curricular providers.

Monday	Wednesday
Football	Robin Hood Gym
Table Tennis	Football
Girls Football	LAMDA (year 7)
Yoga	First Aid
Drama	Samba
Baking	Gardening
Creative Writing	Brilliant Books
LAMDA (year 8)	Capoiera
Jewellery	Mixed Crafts/origami

Gardening Club

Gardening club would welcome any donations of pots, tools, seeds etc that you may have spare at home. Please could any donations be handed in to the school office – thank you.

Year 7 Parents' evening

These are on Thursday 14th and Tuesday 19th April. Please note this is a change to the original dates published on our website at the start of the year. See key dates below.

Key dates

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

7th & 12th January	Year 8 Parents evenings (attend one date only) School ends at 3.30pm for all students on these days
w/c 11th January	Start of assessments
11th February	Year 8 Jane Eyre theatre trip
12th February	INSET day – school closed for students and last day of half term
22nd February	First day back at school
2nd March	Year 8 Options evening
8th March	Tutor review day 2. School will only be open for individual appointments with your child's tutor. The school bus will not operate.
17th March	Year 7 'Gangsta Granny' theatre trip
24th March	Last day of the Spring term – break up for Easter holidays
11th April	First day back to school. Summer term begins
14th & 19th April	Year 7 parents evening (attend one date only). School ends at 3.30pm for all students on these days.
2nd May	May Bank Holiday – school is closed.
30th May – 3rd June	Half term – school is closed
22nd July	Last day of term – break up for the summer holidays
5th September	First day of the new school year for all students



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