



Nottingham Free School Newsletter

November 2015

From the Head of School

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

Welcome to the first newsletter of this school year! We had a very busy start to the year after so much building work over the summer which gave us much more space and bespoke facilities. Hopefully, you managed to see most of the building on tutor review day and I would like to thank you all for your time attending and giving your support. The building work is soon to end and we are very excited about the extra facilities we will gain in the next few weeks. Our intention is to use parts of the new section after Christmas, giving us a little more time to organise resources and complete the installation of the remaining ICT equipment.

Our new cohort of year 7 students have settled in well and we continue to be impressed with the focus and positive attitude to learning that our students demonstrate on a daily basis. In a few weeks they will start preparation for their January assessments and we are planning lots of support activities to help with their preparation including some mindfulness training in the first week in January to help deal with feelings of worry and stress.

Please do take some time to read the rest of the newsletter which gives a little snapshot of some of the events in school so far this term.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Kind regards,

Mrs J Brown

Attendance

The Autumn term has seen a slight dip in attendance this year. We are aiming for 98% but are currently at 96.7%. Attendance has a big impact on progress which is why we treat it with such importance and ask that this is a priority for all students. Please remember to check the term dates on the school website to ensure family holidays are not booked during term time.

Building update

The construction team have nearly completed the inside areas of the next section and are focusing on the outside area this week. New cycle shelters, planters and a brand new staircase have caused much excitement; it is very interesting for all of us to see the new areas of the school take shape on a daily basis. A great deal of work took place during half term too in order to make adjustments or improvements to our existing area.



Our logo and school motto are back up on walls and the famous drawing of the building is a feature once more!



School Road markings

You may have seen that our school road markings have appeared outside our main entrance. This has made a huge difference to the safety of students outside school. Please can I remind all parents that parking or stopping, even to drop off, on these yellow markings is not permitted during the hours stated on the notice outside school. Please drop off/pick up your child further down the road to keep all students and other road users safe. I would also encourage all students to use the crossing at the traffic lights to cross the road rather than attempting this immediately opposite school.

Sports fixtures

Boys football

The Free School fell to a 10-0 defeat away at Farnborough Academy. Despite the score line the lads played really well and were gracious in defeat. The lads defended well after conceding 5 quick goals in the opening 4 minutes at the start of the game. There was some excellent football from both sides and man of the match went to Hadden Bolstridge who made some excellent saves. Special mention to Harri Grewal and Blake Haddon who never stopped running and put in some excellent tackles.

Girl's netball

It was the first fixture of the season and the year 7/8 team played against Djanogly for the first time. It was a really close game and unfortunately we lost 2-1 however, the girls played extremely well and showed excellent spirit. The player of the match as voted by Mrs Gray was Sophie Noseley.

Curiosity Challenge

We have started a new initiative this term designed to encourage curiosity and wider participation with different curriculum areas. This is purely voluntary and open for all students, although some with particular talents may be encouraged to participate in their area of talent. Each challenge is open for a few weeks. We started with science, and our current challenge is linked to Philosophy and Ethics. Students are asked to respond to the question below by 16th November in the form of an essay, powerpoint, video or poster handed to Mrs Inglis

Year 7

Can you believe in God and science? Please explain your answer.

Year 8

"True equality can never be achieved" Do you agree? Try to consider more than one point of view.

Curriculum news

National Poetry day

We celebrated National Poetry day on 8th October in a variety of ways. Miss Britten, helped by a group of students, discussed this year's theme of 'light' in assembly and students discussed and wrote poems on this theme in their English lessons. All staff chose their favourite poem and displayed it on their classroom door.

Here are our words of the week so far; do you know their definitions?

Alacrity beguiling convivial dauntless ebullient fortuitous galvanise halcyon

European day of languages 26th September

The Languages department introduced us to the diversity of languages spoken across Europe and the rest of world as well as the variety spoken by students and staff at Nottingham Free School! In assembly, Miss Tervit gave lots of facts about the benefits of learning another language and students were encouraged to answer the register in another language in each of their lessons. All students could take part in a competition to name as many European flags as possible. How many do you recognise? (see the school website for a colour version!)



Library Books

We will be moving into our brand new library very soon! If you have any spare books at home that you no longer need we would love to make use of them in our library. All donations to the school office are welcome and we are very grateful for the donations that we have received so far.



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Extra – curricular

Brilliant books are an organisation working with some of our year 8 students. Each week they meet an author or guest speaker who is passionate about literacy. See their blogspot for more details:

<http://mybrilliantbooks.blogspot.co.uk/2015/10/kevin-price-and-karen-mcardle-join-us.html?m=1>

Charity group

The charity group have been busy organising bake sales to support our Macmillan coffee morning, learning about the current refugee crisis and collecting items to send Christmas shoeboxes to children across the world. All shoeboxes need to be in school for 18th November and watch this space for their next campaign!

Key dates – all dates are available on the calendar on our school website

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| 2nd December | Parent's forum meeting 6.30 – 7.30pm on the theme of effective revision and homework |
| 9th December | Afternoon pantomime trip to Nottingham Playhouse |
| 10th December | Christmas medley evening event; music and drama |
| 11th December | Last day of term |
| 4th January | First day back at school |
| 7th & 12th January | Year 8 Parents evenings (attend one date only) |
| 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 |