



20 October 2017

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

Welcome to the start of our fourth academic year at Nottingham Free School.

A new school year always brings new experiences and we would like to give a formal welcome to our new cohort of year 7 students and their families as they join our school community. We hope that you have a great experience at NFS over the coming years.

We have also welcomed some new staff, all of whom have settled in very quickly and are providing our students with engaging lessons and thoughtful pastoral support.

The first week of this term had a focus for students on key aspects of school life such as active reading, handwriting and presentation, safeguarding and personal conduct and appropriate language. Students also spent some time thinking about how each of us can demonstrate our school motto 'work hard be kind' in their day to day lives. It is vitally important that we all strive towards these behaviours every day in order to ensure that we create an environment where we can all thrive.

Our increasing focus on employability skills was evident in the introduction of our 'Record of Employability and Achievement'. This is a log book for students to record all of the activities they are involved in which demonstrate their personal development towards the ten employability skills and their wider participation in school life. For example, all staff are setting challenges for students to choose to accept and we have increased the number of house competitions in order for all students to have the opportunity to represent their house in a wide variety of activities.

As we approach the end of our first half term, we wish all of our students and families a restful break. Thank you for all of the support you provide for your children and the school – it is very much appreciated.

Mrs J Brown
Head of School

Trips and visits

Please note that the following trips/visits have been planned for the forthcoming year. We hope that this list helps you as Parents/Carers with financial planning. During the course of the year, other activities may be added to this, as we are sometimes offered opportunities that are too good to miss!

| Year group | Activity | Dates | Approximate cost |
|------------|---|-------------------|------------------|
| 10 | Two day/1 night visit to York for Philosophy & Ethics | 6-7 December 2017 | £104 |
| All | Pantomime – Theatre Royal (185 places only) | 13 December 2017 | £16 |
| 7 | Walesby Scout camp – 3 day/2 night residential | 21-23 March 2018 | £120 |
| 8 | Walesby Scout camp – 3 day/2 night residential | 22-27 June 2018 | £120 |
| 9 | Spain – 1 week visit for those taking Spanish GCSE | 27-29 June 2018 | To Be Confirmed |
| 9/10 | Jekyll & Hyde Theatre Trip | 21 March 2018 | £15 |
| 9/10 | GCSE Music – Wicked at The Birmingham Hippodrome | 26 April 2018 | £38.40 |
| 9/10 | Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award – Training weekend | 12-13 May 2018 | £198 |
| 9/10 | Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award – Practice expedition | 7-8 July 2018 | |
| 9/10 | Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award – Qualifying expedition | 21-22 July 2018 | |
| 10 | Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award – Training weekend (only for those without Bronze Award) | 12-13 May 2018 | £250 |
| 10 | Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award – Practice expedition | 6-8 July 2018 | |
| 10 | Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award – Qualifying expedition | 20-22 July 2018 | |

Curriculum News

Spanish

Year 10 Spanish students have been busy preparing for their first round of assessments on the topics of free time, sports, cinema, TV, trending topics and role models. The speaking assessments took place on Tuesday 17 October and involved the students describing a photo and answering some questions in Spanish, in line with GCSE criteria. The reading, writing and listening assessments took place during lessons.

English

In recent weeks, all students have taken a reading age test which will allow us to help them improve their reading even more. Reading is so important to us here as we know how essential it is in aiding students to achieve not only in school but in later life. All students read every day in DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) for 15 minutes and complete their reading journals. In addition, most students have a reading lesson every week in one of their English lessons. Year 7 are about to receive a free book which they chose themselves from a selection. We hope they enjoy it and look forward to reading their reviews.

Maths

Students are set maths homework on a programme called MathsWatch. MathsWatch is accessed through a website - it is not an app on the iPads. Therefore it can be accessed on any computer, laptop, iPad, tablet or phone that has internet access.

The website is <https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/vle/>

Students should enter their username which is their first name and their surname followed by @nottinghamfreeschool e.g. annasmith@nottinghamfreeschool and they must ensure they do not put 'co.uk' on the end as they would with an email address. It does not matter if this is written using capital letters or not.

Student's password is either password123 or complex123 depending on if they have had to have it reset, but just get them to try both. The password has no capitals in it.

If all of this fails then students should ensure they have left enough time to see Mrs Farnie before the homework is due in.

PE

NFS have begun their second year of competing in the Nottinghamshire Schools Cross Country league, with the 1st of 3 events completed at Berry Hill Park.

We are very proud to have the following results and ask that anyone who would like to compete, gets a letter from Mrs Singleton-Jones as soon as possible regarding the next 2 fixtures (November and December).

Round 1 Cross Country Results

Year 7 Girls

| | |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| Ruby Neale | 43 rd in the County |
|------------|--------------------------------|

A **MASSIVE** well done to Ruby for being the **only** year 7 girl to represent the school in Cross Country...ever!

Year 7 Boys

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Nick Simpson | 35 th in the County |
| Stephen Walsh | 47 th in the County |
| Aaryan Mayor | 49 th in the County |

An **AMAZING RESULT** from Nick.

Year 8/9 Girls

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Amelia Wallace | 20 th in the County | Y8/9 Boys Team are currently 5th in the County |
| Kian Horder | 41 st in the County | |
| Keira Winter | 43 rd in the County | |

An AMAZING RESULT from Amelia.

Year 8/9 Boys

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Finlay Wilson | 8 th in the County | Y8/9 Boys TEAM are currently 3rd in the County |
| Alfie Doran | 32 nd in the County | |
| Kyle McLeod | 37 th in the County | |
| Ben Stayne | 42 nd in the County | |
| Harley Simpson | 43 rd in the County | |
| Harvey Neal | 45 th in the County | |
| Ethan Wyeld | 55 th in the County | |
| Archie Brown | 56 th in the County | |

An AMAZING RESULT from Finlay Wilson.

Year 10/11 Girls

| | |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| Molly Doran | 5 th in County |
| Sophie Wyeld | 13 th in County |

OUTSTANDING RESULTS from Molly Doran and Sophie Wyeld, especially as they are 5th and 13th respectively out of all Year 10s **AND** Year 11s in the County.

Year 10/11 Boys

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Thomas Justice | 33 rd in the County |
|----------------|--------------------------------|

A great result from Thomas as the first ever and only Y10 boy to represent the school and in *his* first Cross Country race.

Design and Technology

Year 7 students have been busy creating delicious food in technology this term. One of our year 7 students has written a diary to show what they have been up to.

Week one

On the first week we learnt all about safety in the Food Room. We learnt lots of things like don't run as you could fall and hurt yourself. We were also taught about germs and how to keep our food safe to eat. We learnt that germs are attracted to food such as cake when it has been placed in the fridge after baking. The class tried 3 different types of apples and filled in a table to work out which one we all liked best after a class vote. I preferred the Jazz apple to the Granny Smith and Golden delicious because it was really juicy and sweet. Jazz apple was also the whole class favourite.

Week 2

On week 2 we made our first thing which was a berry smoothie. It was really easy to make and was really refreshing and tasty. We learnt how working in a team really helped and made the process quicker. It was only a few. We couldn't wait to make some food next week!

Week 3

It was amazing to try and make real food that we had at home. We made cheesy pasta and it was really quick and easy to make. We have 90 minutes in our DT lessons and we always manage to get a demonstration in, make it ourselves, cook it (if we need to), wash up and pack away in this time and go home on time.

Week 4

Bread week! We made an easy batch of bread rolls which were really tasty. We used basic ingredients and worked really well as a class, helping with washing, sharing ingredients and reminding each other of the next steps.

Week 5

We made pizza! I loved making this as it was so easy and simple and it is easy to make at home with your parents and siblings. The recipes will also help me when I am at university and when I am older. The recipe was basic and it was highly likely that we had the ingredients at home to try this at home.

Week 6

This week we made scones. It was really fun and we learnt different techniques like how to make breadcrumbs and how to get them a nice golden colour using egg wash. They smelled delicious and had a great colour to them. They were also a great shape and looked like scones.

Eloise Kenah

Future Chef

Year 9 and Year 10 GCSE Food and Nutrition students were set the challenge of producing a pasta dish within their lessons which could potentially gain them a place in the local finals of the Future Chef competition. Springboard's Future Chef helps young people aged 12-16 to learn to cook. It inspires them to explore food and cooking as a life skill by developing their culinary expertise. The students did such a wonderful job within the lessons that we found it really difficult to choose only two representatives. We decided to hold a school final where eight students were invited back to make a dessert. They all did such a fantastic job and should all be incredibly proud of themselves. We then had the tough decision to make on who would go through to represent the school in the local heat.

A big well done to our two winners, Seth Richards and Harvey Neal who really excelled themselves with their excellent brownie dishes.

Art

Year 10 Art GCSE have been responding to the contemporary artist Kris Trappeniers creating an expressive style in their work and developing their use of pattern. Despite the human face being a challenging thing to draw they have done some beautiful work.



Enrichment

The Creative Art enrichment group have been working hard this term on creating some wire insects, some of them found this a real challenge but the results were fantastic. Next they're going to be developing their relief skills with cardboard in response to the artist Rex Ray.



iPads

After some staff training in the summer, many lessons now feature iPads as a learning tool. Students are using them frequently across all subject areas for research, displaying their work on the board and getting instant feedback through quizzes such as Socrative and Kahoot. Some staff are also using the Showbie app for students to submit work and receive feedback.

We are aware that the start of term has been difficult for some students who have had a big delay in receiving their iPad. We have reviewed all of our iPad procedures to ensure that we can deal with any issues smoothly whilst ensuring students are fully aware of the responsibility they have in keeping this valuable equipment as safe as possible. We would like to thank everyone involved for their patience and understanding.

The election of House Captains and Vice-House Captains

We had a strong field of students who had put themselves forward for House Captain this year. The students delivered great presentations and have shown they are future leaders in the making.

The following students were elected by the students within their house:

Potter - Charlene Nunga-Nkome-Ntunwa (House Captain) and Daisy Wright (Vice Captain)
Torvill - Aamina Sharif (House Captain) and Sophie Noseley (Vice Captain)
Clough - Patrycja Florek (House Captain) and Dylan Duffus (Vice Captain)
Hawksley - Saffa Yaseen (House Captain) and Laaiba Amjad (Vice Captain)

House Competitions

Students have been working hard in their lessons to win coins for their house. We have also run house competitions each week which allow students to earn extra points.

The results for this half term are:

Spelling Bee: Winners - Potter

Name that tune: Winners - Torvill

Riddles: Winners - Hawksley

Physical challenge: Winners - Potter

Memory challenge: Winners - Hawksley

Congratulations to all the participants so far.

Student Council

The student council has been re-launched this year and all tutor groups now have two representatives in place. Those interested in applying for executive roles in the council, for example, the Chair and the Secretary, have been applying in writing and will also be interviewed. This is great preparation for post-16 studies and for careers. We hope that the student council will play a key role in developing the school and will keep you updated with all their progress.

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 all students to have at least 98% attendance in order to support their learning.

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

Our term time dates for this academic year and next are all on the school website (Information – Term Dates – Related Downloads).

Students with high levels of attendance receive a variety of rewards including:

Flapjack Friday – flapjacks awarded to the tutor group in each year with the highest attendance

Reward tokens – awarded every half term to all students with an attendance level of 98% or above.

This can be cashed in for a variety of prizes or saved up for a bigger prize at the end of the year.

Communication Home

Just a reminder that the majority of communications home are now sent 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).

Reports for year 7 and 9 students will be uploaded onto INSIGHT on Monday 23 October (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

Student safety

As we have mentioned many times previously, we continue to receive complaints about the double parking by parents who are dropping off/collecting their children close to the front of school. Please can all parents support the safety of all students and other road users by only using the parking bays correctly, not stopping in the road next to another car or on the yellow zig-zag lines.

This is not something that we are able to deal with directly and all complainants are advised to contact the police community support officer. We would appreciate the support from parents in not putting us in a difficult position with our local neighbours and community over this matter.

School Link Programme

Nottingham Free School is privileged to be able to participate in a school link programme with a school in Ningbo, China.

The link begins with Mrs Brown visiting Ningbo along with a delegation of 8 other Head Teachers across Nottingham City and County. During their visit they will experience a conference with Head Teachers in Ningbo and their Education Bureau as well as a day in the partner school. On this day, the partner schools will plan a series of link experiences which will include exchange visits. We hope to host a visit from our Chinese friends in the summer term. Our partner school is called Ningbo Siyanqi Middle School and we very much look forward to developing a working relationship with them which helps to develop our students in both schools and bring a good understanding of each other's culture.

Future key dates

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 20 October 2017 | Last day of half term |
| 30 October 2017 | First day back after half term |
| 20 November /2017 | Year 9 assessments begin |
| 6-7 December 2017 | Year 10 York residential trip |
| 13 December 2017 | Trip to the Theatre Royal pantomime |
| 15 December 2017 | Break up for Christmas |

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