



April 2018

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

I hope you all had a happy and sunny Easter break.

It was lovely to see the start of Spring before the Easter holiday and our students certainly enjoyed being outside during the sunny days at break and lunchtime. So many of our students enjoyed making use of the table tennis and MUGA (multiple use games area) to stay active during their break times.

The better weather was also a great help on our trips and residential activities. Year 8 made great use of the faith groups in our local community on their places of worship trip and year 7 enjoyed a fantastic few days away on their Walesby residential. They took part in some incredibly adventurous activities and the staff were particularly impressed with some of the dance moves at the disco. It is lovely to see each group spending time together and forging the strong community links that we are so proud of at Nottingham Free School. Our year 10 students had the best weather in Spain during which they had time to soak up the local culture, spend time in a school and of course, practise their spoken Spanish.

We are looking to extend our regular trips by adding in some team building excursions as part of our activity days at the end of the school year and Mrs Wilken has planned an Art residential for those studying art at GCSE and A Level. This will entail time in London visiting some key art galleries and taking part in interesting workshops. We also have our Duke of Edinburgh camping excursions planned for the this summer term, and next year, will be continuing into the Gold Award with our Year 12 students.

I would like to thank all staff who plan and support these trips; the work behind the scenes is very time consuming and it is great so many staff support these activities that do so much to enrich our students' curriculum and experiences.

We held our first Sixth Form taster session for internal and external applicants recently. This was to help our future sixth formers bond, get to know and work with new people and start to think about their future courses. It was a really enjoyable time together and a great taste of positive things to come.

Finally, this is the term where our year 11 students have their GCSE exams. Despite the stressful time this can be, the year group have been working really hard and are generally feeling well-prepared. It is obvious to all of us that they want to do their best. On behalf of all staff and students, I would like to take this opportunity to wish them all the best for their exams. We are proud of their achievements so far and they have our continued support throughout this next stage.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Mrs J Brown
Head of School

Sixth Form



Our sixth form applications continue to come in and we are delighted with the response from both internal and external candidates.

We held our first taster session recently and it was great to be able to welcome some of our external applicants. We have not taken too much time out of the curriculum to hold these sessions as we do not want to take time away from their critical year 11 lessons. However, we look forward to two subject taster days on 26 and 27 June where they will get to spend more time on the subjects they have chosen to study at A Level, plan their enrichment experiences and spend time gelling as a year group.

This summer term will also see further planning for the common room, quiet study spaces and art studio space.

Design and Technology

Game Changer Competition

In our GCSE Food lessons we were provided with pheasants from 'A Taste of Game'. Students had the opportunity to learn how to portion a pheasant and then cook a dish of their choice with the meat. Student dishes were then entered into the game changer national competition with a chance to win a meal at a Michelin star restaurant.



Budding Food Writers

In Food Technology year 9 students have been trying their hand at food writing. They were set the task of writing an exciting piece about festival foods, highlighting what foods are served there and what the atmosphere might be like. We have now entered these pieces into the 'Pink Lady Food Writers Competition'. We can't wait to find out if any of our entries have reached the final on 30 April.

Art

In art, year 7 students are learning all about colour theory and how to mix paints to create different colours; they have also been looking at artists that use colour a lot in their work such as Michael Craig-Martin. Year 8 students have been very excited to create their silk paintings and have also learnt about the use of mood boards in the design industry, their theme is under the sea so look out for some of their underwater silk masterpieces in our end of year art exhibition.



Year 9 continue to impress with their artistic skills and are developing their use of palette knife and textures with acrylic paint in response to artist Polly Jones whose work they have been studying. Year 10 are working hard on their sketchbooks, learning to present their work effectively and starting to become more independent in their ideas and work.



Year 11 have been working incredibly hard towards their exam preparatory work, they sit their 10-hour exam on Tuesday 30 April and Thursday 2 May, their coursework and exam pieces will be exhibited in our end of year exhibition so watch this space.



PSHCE

In PSHCE, students have been exploring a wide range of topics and students in all year groups always impress staff with their maturity, empathy and respect in class discussions. Year 9 students learnt CPR training during the last half term, a very valid skill with the brilliant British Red Cross who have been training our students in First Aid for the last three years.

Year 11 have been looking at risk taking and staying safe at parties, they have looked at case studies from the news to ensure their own safety in situations where there might be alcohol and drugs present.

Year 10 Spanish Trip

Very early on the morning of Saturday 9 March (2:00 am!), 28 students and 3 members of staff boarded a bus heading to Stansted Airport and then on to Castellón de la



Plana in Spain for a varied five-day experience. Later on that same Saturday, whilst Nottingham was scourged by hail and snow, we enjoyed a beautiful 22 degrees and games on the beach.

We spent two days in our partner school where students made Spanish friends and had a taste of local life. We learnt a local street sport, ate tapas, visited some local caves and Peñíscola Castle, walked a coastal path and of course spoke lots of Spanish. The last day was spent in Valencia just before the famous Fallas festival started - we were lucky enough to see some of the models being constructed.

All our year 10 students were a credit both to themselves and the school. We hope they all enjoyed the change of environment and new challenges and have returned enthused to learn more Spanish.

UKMT (United Kingdom Maths Trust) Success



A team of four Nottingham Free School students, Dilan Duffus, Viktor Harrison, Yousaf Mughal, Jaydon Rakkar, travelled to Ashfield School to compete in the Regional Final of the UKMT Maths Challenge. Their aim was to build on last year's success when the team came 10th out of 28 schools.

The competition is demanding and our opponents included both Nottingham High Schools and the West Bridgford schools, all of whom usually make up the top few places.

The competition entails four rounds; a group round, where all members of the team work together to solve problems, two further rounds where the teams are split into pairs and have to pass answers

between them, and a final round which is a relay race.

After the first round we were delighted to find ourselves in the top five schools, so the pressure was on for the next couple of rounds to try and stay with the leaders. The top five places were again announced after round three and again we were amongst the top names. There was real excitement amongst the team as we knew that beating last year's placing was a real possibility. BUT it was going to be close - there was only two points between the top three teams!

Coming into the last round - the relay round - we knew that if we were going to stand a chance we had to do one thing (apart from be brilliant at maths!) - RUN!!! The boys did amazingly as they combined their PE skills with their maths brains and raced around the room collecting and answering **all** the questions in the relay. This event is not designed to be finished so the fact that they managed it is incredible.

A tense wait ensued for the final results, when it was announced that all their hard work had paid off and they had won the regional final!! The next stage is in London on Monday 17 June when the boys will compete against the top 88 teams from all over the country. Please wish them luck!

UKMT Success – Part 2

On Thursday 7 February students from year 9, 10 and 11 competed in the individual UKMT Intermediate maths challenge. This is an hour long paper sat individually and consists of tricky problem solving questions.

The following students did fantastically well and gained awards as follows –

From Year 11	Khulh Elgareidi – Gold Ademola Akanji – Silver Shannon Birkett – Bronze Haroon Malik – Bronze
From Year 10	Matthew Baggaley – Bronze James Mottram – Bronze
From Year 9	Dilan Duffus – Gold Molly Luca – Bronze

Dilan gained enough marks to be entered into the Olympiad round which he completed last week. We are awaiting the results but know he has done really well.

Young Literature Ambassador



Danica Bowles, one of our Year 11 students, has been nominated to take part in the 2019 Young City of Literature Ambassadors Project. Nottingham is only one of the 27 recognised Cities of Literature, selected because of its rich literary heritage, and now new young writers are shaping the next generation of literary talent.

As an ambassador, Danica will be an active part of the project and has the opportunity to review the latest book releases as well as meeting authors and learning new skills such as interviewing techniques. It is a very exciting opportunity and we look forward to reading Danica's reviews as they are published.

British Science Week

2019 marks the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Channel Tunnel, which links Folkestone in Kent with Coquelles, Pas-de-Calais in France.

In celebration of this special anniversary milestone, Eurotunnel partnered up with the British Science Association on British Science Week, to explore the theme of 'journeys'. The science department have been promoting British Science week by leading an assembly where we spoke to the students about journeys to school and how this linked to our journey through life.

The theme for this year's British Science Week encourages young people to think about the different scientific journeys that happen every day and how they can discover science through their own lives and experiences. It is also a chance for young people to consider how journeys can help us experience more of the world around us.

Team News

Year 7 Football

The year 7 boys took part in their first football tournament as a team and we experimented with formations in preparation for Italy 2019 sports trip. Unfortunately we weren't successful enough to get into the second round of the tournament, however they played well and the school was proud of their performance.

Year 10 Football



The year 10 football team have played in two fixtures over the last term. We played an away fixture against Park Vale School where the score line was a thrilling 4-3 victory for Nottingham Free School. Unfortunately we had a lot of injuries for the home fixture and had some last minute substitutes which meant we weren't playing with our usual chemistry. The away side took the victory and we were defeated 4-1 to NUSA who were the more clinical team on the day. A special mention to Daniel Dyrda who has scored in all games he has played this season.

Year 7 Netball

Well done to the year 7 netball team who won their first competitive game, against Kimberley School; at the Central Venue Tournament. The girls worked so hard for the win and really clubbed together to follow all of the advice from training sessions. Let's hope they capitalise on this next year and increase their win record!

Y8 Places of Worship Visit



In humanities year 8 had a really successful visit to some local places of worship when they visited either the Gurdwara Baba Budha Ji or the Nottingham Liberal Synagogue in Sherwood. Students had a fantastic time visiting these places, exploring the key features of each place of worship and meeting with people of the Jewish and Sikh faiths in their local community. Students have been learning about different places of worship and they have been busy since their visit planning a multi-faith centre in order for them to show their understanding of how each faith group could be represented in an inclusive way. We have seen some fantastic ideas from students and they have shown a great commitment to maintaining equality within diversity in their work.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Mike Harris and the team at Nottingham Liberal Synagogue and to all at the Gurdwara Baba Budha Ji for having us. We look forward to returning next year.

Year 7 Walesby Residential

The annual Year 7 visit to Walesby took place in March and our students filed the following report.

We demolished a divine breakfast each day at 8:00am and hot meals for lunch and dinner before heading back to our rooms to prepare for the twilight sessions – Disco / Campfire – which the whole year (including the staff) thoroughly enjoyed!

The first twilight session, 'after our normal activities' was a disco with blasting music and a DJ booth, finished with crazy dancing and bright lights! Many of the Walesby staff and Nottingham Free School teachers got stuck in along with the students (!). There was also a campfire on the second night, with sing songs and good laughs (No seriously where is Fred the moose?!) and these silly songs were sung on our way back to school. We also got through several fun activities including quad biking, air rifles, laser quest, indoor climbing, team building, fencing, low ropes and tomahawks. Sorry to all the parents who had to wash those dirty clothes. Yikes!

Parking and Driving close to school

Thank you to those who have helped to keep the outside of school safer for our students by not using the yellow zig-zag area to pick up or drop off.

It is so important that all parents/carers continue to support our students by driving safely around school and parking a little further away to ensure that our students are able to arrive and leave school safely.

Lost Property



We acquire a great deal of lost property which is placed on display at the end of every half term, any items left after this are donated to charity. If your child has lost something please encourage them to check with the office.

To ensure that the amount of lost property is kept to a minimum please put your child's name in all items they bring to school. We can then return them to the student if they are misplaced.

Dates for Your Diary

23 April – Year 7 and 9 assessments – until 2 May

25 April – Spring Concert

30 April – GCSE examinations begin. Please see the exam timetable on our website;
https://www.nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk/page.php?d=y11support&p=exam_timetables

1 May – Year 10 Parents' Evening, school finishes at 3.30pm

13 May – Year 10 Work Experience Week

27 – 30 May – Half Term Holiday

17 June – Year 10 Assessments – until 28 June

18 June – Year 11 Leavers Celebration

24 June – Sherwood Arts Activity Week – until 28 June

26 & 27 June – Sixth Form Induction Days

1 July – Year 7 Science and Geography Trip to Highfields

6 July – Year 11 Prom

10 July – Sports Day

18 July – Summer Concert

18, 19 & 2 July – Enrichment Activity Days

22 July – Last day of term

22 August – GCSE results day and sixth form enrolment