



NOTTINGHAM GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

Experts in educating girls from 4-18 years

Leading. Learning. Loving it.

INSIGHT

February 2016 Issue 44

Dear Parents, Girls and Friends of NGHS

After recharging their batteries and enjoying the Christmas break, including those who had a fabulous time at the German Christmas markets, the girls and staff came back raring to get straight into a busy spring term.



It has been lovely to see so many visitors wanting tours of the school and meeting our current pupils, and the day of Entrance Examinations was lively and busy and promises a healthy new intake come September; I look forward to welcoming all of our new pupils then.

Our Year 11 girls have of course been especially busy with their mock examinations in preparation for the 'real thing' in the summer, and the Year 9 Options Evening was also busy as girls chose their future pathways through the school - exciting times ahead and lots to do.

There has been the usual glut of trips and concerts with the GDST holding some significant events of its own, such as the Digital Learners Conference attended by some of our Senior and Junior girls, and the GDST



Young Musician and Vocalist of the Year competition. Our Rising Stars concert was very well attended and entertaining, with some exceptional performances from girls who may well find their way into future GDST competitions at this rate.



Our Drama production of the Snow Queen was visually spectacular and very well acted indeed. The audience were mesmerised and I must congratulate the Drama Department for their hard work and of course the talented girls who performed the show for three nights in a row - well done.



I would also like to say how pleased I was with the girls' behaviour on the morning of our hoax call. They acted sensibly and maturely in difficult circumstances and were very patient given how long we all had to wait before being permitted to re-enter the school. My thanks are also extended to parents who responded so positively to the whole situation - your support is always most welcome.

So please enjoy reading all about our recent events and have a wonderful and restful break.

With best wishes

Susan M Gorham, Head

YEAR 7 HOUSE BAKE OFF

Year 7 girls took part in a House Bake Off contest in January during which they had to make their best chocolate cupcakes. Their creations were then judged by Ms Davis and Mrs Wharton-Howett on presentation and flavour; this was no easy task as all of the cakes were amazing. A final decision was eventually made and the winning bake was by the girls from Bolton House who claimed the prestigious Golden Spoon trophy.



ART TRIP TO THE WALLACE COLLECTION

The A Level Art students visited the Wallace Collection in London to attend a one day workshop which encouraged them to understand about the Renaissance and the Rococo periods and how art students would have worked during those times. The girls learnt a number of drawing techniques which they put to good use drawing from the collection and also using a life model. It was a very valuable, interesting and enjoyable day.



YEAR 10 PHYSICS CHALLENGE

A group of Year 10 Physicists attended the 'Practical Physics Challenge for Girls' at The University of Nottingham on 15 January where they had to design an effective heat shield to prevent burn-up on atmospheric re-entry - a very topical subject! The girls did a great job and really enjoyed the day.



RSPB BIRDWATCH

A group of girls went along to Attenborough Nature Reserve armed with binoculars in order to take part in a spot of birdwatching as part of an RSPB initiative in January. They had a great time trying to find and identify as many species as they could at this lovely local nature facility.



CHARITY NETBALL MATCH

Year 9 girls took on staff in a netball match to raise money for the Harley Jae Trust which supports Nottingham's Paediatric Critical Care Unit. The event was a huge success and enjoyed by all who took part and those who came to watch. The total raised for the charity was in excess of £500 which is brilliant. Well done to Bella and Erin for masterminding the whole event and who have many other fundraising plans, including climbing Mount Snowdon!



PET CLUB

Girls had an entertaining visit from some ferrets at Pet Club which they really enjoyed. The ferrets explored the Biology lab as the girls led them around on their harnesses and marvelled at how much the animals actually liked to play.



MATHS OUTREACH DAY

We welcomed nearly 100 children from local primary schools to take part in a fun and educational Maths Outreach event. In their groups, the children had a go at each of the challenges which ranged from code breaking to probability. After all of these challenges there was a great number-based quiz in the Library which they really enjoyed.

Everybody received a participation certificate and the winners were awarded Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates too. It was a great day and a wonderful way of making Maths fun for our neighbouring schools.



LANGUAGE PLAYS

Year 9 linguists were treated to two plays from our regular visitors, Onatti Productions Ltd. German play 'Zwillinge' was an amusing piece about the confusion caused by identical twin brothers, and Spanish play 'Primera Cita' was a comical farce about the angst of preparing for a 'first date'. Both had the



usual element of audience participation which the girls always enjoy. What a great way to enhance language learning!



BRAIN DAY

Year 12 Psychology students had a very interesting and educational time during Brain Day on Friday 5 February. Dr Guy Sutton from the University of Nottingham talked to the group about such diverse issues as Neurobionics, the Zika virus and the difference between boys' and girls' brains. The girls also watched him perform a brain dissection which they really enjoyed.



MEET THE LAWYER

A group of Year 11 and 12 girls had a very interesting afternoon learning about Law careers. Janine Smith who is CPS Chief Prosecutor for the East Midlands came to talk to the girls and also brought along a legal case study for them to discuss. Two Law students from The University of Nottingham were also on hand to add a bit of undergraduate perspective. The girls really enjoyed this insightful session and we are very grateful to all of our visitors for giving up their time to come and talk to them.



JUNIOR SCHOOL

After the excitement of Christmas, the Junior girls have settled back into their work with their usual sense of commitment and wonderful enthusiasm.

The classrooms have been exceptionally busy, not just with the industrious girls, but also with all of the parents who have attended our various workshops. It has been a pleasure to see so many of you coming into school to see exactly what makes our lessons work so well. I think it is important that you experience our educational expertise first-hand, so thanks to all of you who attended; I hope you enjoyed your learning experiences.



I am delighted too, that there have been more shared experiences with the Senior School as our girls have recently visited for assorted lessons and to watch the Drama production. The musical talent among Junior girls goes from strength to strength, and this was evident in the recent *Orchestral Works*. Thanks predominantly to Mark Rolfe and his dedication and encouragement, it won't be long before every single girl here has the opportunity to play some sort of musical instrument, which is fantastic.

So, I hope you enjoy reading the Infant and Junior news, and I wish you all a restful break.

With best wishes

Miss Julie Keller, Acting Executive Head of the Junior School

PET CLUB VISITS THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Junior girls had some interesting visitors when Pet Club went across to see them from the Senior School.

Among the furry friends were some gerbils and some rats, but the creatures that seemed to attract most attention were the giant African Land Snails. The girls were not in the slightest bit squeamish about handling these slippery customers - in fact they positively appeared to enjoy it!



YEAR 5 BIOLOGY

Year 5 girls spent a day in the Senior School for a Biology lesson examining how many micro-organisms they had managed to grow in Petri dishes that had been exposed to the air for varying periods of time. The girls counted up their bugs, drew them and plotted them on graphs. They had a really interesting time and learnt lots about how many germs surround us!



JUNIOR CHESS

Junior Chess Club is more popular than ever! This term has been especially exciting, as our 'A' team have now earned a place in the local Junior Championship League, so allowing the growing talent from our 'B' team to join the Nottingham East League. With 50+ members, it is perhaps easy for us to take it for granted that so many of our bright girls play in this male-dominated sport.



Chatting with teachers and coaches from local co-ed schools, it is sad to hear them lamenting the lack of girls in their chess clubs and teams - and this gender stereotyping and loss of opportunity is indeed borne out, every time we attend a fixture. Well done, ladies - from Years 2 to 6, you are doing yourselves proud!

HOCKEY AND NETBALL

Congratulations to the Year 6 Hockey A team who beat Sheffield High School 2 - 1 on 27 January, and the Year 5 Netball team who also played well and just managed to beat the rain! Well done girls!



CHINESE NEW YEAR MARKET

To celebrate the Chinese New Year of the Monkey, some Sixth Form girls dressed up and set out a fun market at the Junior School. There was a lucky dip, cake stall, write your name in Chinese and pin the tail on the monkey! The girls had a great time and left laden with cakes and lovely little gifts from the lucky dip.



YEAR 6 BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Year 6 girls took part in a Business Challenge at the Senior School during which their teamwork, creativity and management skills were put to the test as they designed and marketed their own brand of chocolate. The girls worked brilliantly and came up with some fabulous ideas which they presented to the judges. Well done to Team 8 who were the overall winners with their 'Chocky Blocky' bar!



SENIOR SPORT

SPORTING SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

The PE Department are very proud of the school who were placed in the top three at the Sporting School of the Year awards for the fourth year in succession. It is surely only a matter of time before the top spot is secured!



EAST MIDLANDS NETBALL

The U14, U16 and U18 teams played very well in difficult blustery conditions on Saturday 6 February. U16 were semi-finalists but the others failed to get through despite some good play.



NOTTINGHAM FOREST IN THE COMMUNITY

NGHS girls were honoured and delighted to feature in a promotional video for Nottingham Forest in the Community. A film crew came to the school one lunchtime and interviewed some of the girls and filmed them playing football to promote the work that they do in the community and also to encourage other girls to take part in the sport.



CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to our Cross Country runners who had two team wins at the City Championships in January.



As a result of this 12 girls went through to the very muddy County Finals in February. The girls ran very well in such awful conditions - well done everybody.



INDOOR ATHLETICS

Well done to our Year 8 Indoor Athletics team who came first in their heats to make it through to the City Finals.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 22 February

Year 4 trip to the Space Centre

Wednesday 24 February

Year 1 trip to Holme Pierrepont Hall
Year 11 parents' evening, 4.30 - 7.00pm

Thursday 25 February

Ski trip parents' information evening, Sports Hall, 6.00-7.00pm

Friday 26 February

Year 5 trip to Hardwick Hall

Monday 29 February

Senior Netball and Cross Country, Bromley
Reception to Year 2 parents' evening 4.00 - 7.00pm

Thursday 3 March

Years 3 to 6 parents' evening, 4.00 - 7.00pm

Friday 4 March - Sunday 6 March

Year 8 GDST Netball residential to Condoval Hall.

Monday 7 March

Years 3 to 6 parents' evening, 4.00 - 7.00pm

Thursday 10 March

Reception to Year 2 parents' evening 4.00 - 7.00pm

Monday 14 March

Year 4 production, Junior Hall

Tuesday 15 March

Year 5 trip to Stratford-upon-Avon

Tuesday 15, Wednesday 16 and Thursday 17 March

HMS Pinafore, Senior Hall, 7.00-9.00pm

Thursday 17 March

Year 7 parents' evening, 4.30 - 7.00pm

Tuesday 22 March

EYFS trip to Conkers
Years 3 to 6 Vocal works, Junior Hall, 6.00 - 7.00pm
Leavers concert, Senior Hall, 7.00-9.00pm

Wednesday 23 March

After School Club girls Gymnastics Show, Upnah Gym, 5.00-5.45pm

Thursday 24 March

SPRING TERM ENDS 12.30PM