



# NOTTINGHAM GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

Experts in educating girls from 4-18 years

*Leading. Learning. Loving it.*

## INSIGHT

October 2015 Issue 42

### Dear Parents, Girls and Friends of NGHS

I hope you'll enjoy reading this, the first newsletter of a very special year as we celebrate our 140th anniversary of providing exceptional education dedicated to girls, and only girls - a tradition of which we are incredibly proud. There are many exciting events planned to help us celebrate this so please do look out for these.



Our new Year 7 girls were welcomed into the Senior School with a fun activity day during which they spent some time in our wonderful Outdoor Learning Area and later, fired balloon water bombs at each other from home-made catapults, which they thoroughly enjoyed. This was followed by our annual Icebreaker event at which girls and their parents had the opportunity to get to know one another and meet the staff over some friendly games and quizzes. You can see how much fun they all had by watching the short film at this link: <https://youtu.be/s4kq3B16IB8>



It was lovely to see so many Year 12 girls and their parents at the welcome BBQ in the Sixth Form Centre too, and I hope they've all settled into Sixth Form life and are enjoying all it has to offer.

We held our annual 'Celebration and Awards' evening at the Albert Hall in Nottingham in September, and it was a truly joyous occasion at which we recognised and acknowledged all of our girls' successes from the past academic year. Our guest speaker was Mandy Hickson, the first ever female pilot in the RAF Tornado Squadron. She was an inspirational and entertaining guest and the audience were enthralled by her tales of adventure and heroism. There were some fabulous performances by our talented girls, and the Staff Choir also sang at this event for the first time and were very well received. What a great evening!



Our Open Day in October was a huge success thanks to a record number of visitors. There was a real buzz about the school and it was a pleasure to see so many people who were notably impressed by our state-of-the-art science labs and our use of impressive technology which enhances the teaching and learning experience. And of course, who could fail to be impressed by our fantastic Outdoor Learning Area and wonderful newly resurfaced sports pitches.

We have really enjoyed welcoming Junior girls recently to share our Senior School facilities. Year 5 had a great time making bread in the D&T Food Room, and our Language Enrichment Morning was a huge success proving that Junior and Senior teaching together provides



a valuable and stimulating learning experience. Government statistics show that there are presently too few linguists and here we are bucking the trend. Our outstanding Modern Foreign Languages department strives to inspire skilled linguists who will hold their own in this competitive market.



We're incredibly proud of our Year 6 and 7 hockey players who are leading the way with our first ever overseas hockey tour which is building on the superb training they have received. Their trip to Holland will provide their first experience of playing against another country, and this will undoubtedly help to develop their sporting skills and talents; we wish them lots of luck.



I'd also like to say "Bon Voyage" to girls and staff going out on the Spanish trip over half term, and "Good Luck" to the team of cyclists braving the Coast-to-Coast bike ride this year. Have a safe journey all of you, and enjoy the break everybody.

With best wishes  
**Susan M Gorham, Head**



## HEAD GIRL TEAM AND YOUNG LEADERS' CONFERENCE

Our new Head Girl Team have taken up their duties in earnest and have already been really busy. One of their first tasks was to be among the group representing NGHS at the Young Leaders' Conference in Bath. Here they took part in an 'Apprentice' style challenge during which they had to devise and market a fundraising event for charity. This was a great test of their leadership, teamwork, collaboration, negotiation and problem-solving skills.



## PEAK DISTRICT CHALLENGE

A group of girls and staff spent one Saturday in September undertaking the Peak District Challenge in Derbyshire to raise money for Autism Awareness. The challenge was to cover 25km in under nine hours, and the team actually completed it in seven hours and 32 minutes, which is amazing. They raised lots of money for this worthwhile cause. Well done everybody, and thanks to those who donated.



## YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY RESIDENTIAL TO CRANEDALE

The Year 12 Geographers spent two days and nights at the Cranedale field centre in Yorkshire investigating how river variables change downstream and the flood defences that have been used in and around Malton. The girls enjoyed the hands on experience, working as a team and getting to put theory into practice.



## YEAR 8 TRIP TO BLETCHLEY PARK

Year 8 Computing girls enjoyed a great day at Bletchley Park learning all about Alan Turing and the famous Enigma code-breaking machine. They also had a go at lots of interactive games and puzzles at this fabulous educational museum.



## GDST NORTHERN TRUST RALLY

It was a great pleasure for NGHS to host the GDST Northern Trust Rally this year and welcome over 200 pupils from seven other GDST schools to take part in a range of competitions, sporting and academic. Everybody agreed it was a great day.



## YEAR 9 GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO LIVERPOOL

Year 9 went to Liverpool to investigate the impact of redevelopment on the city since its decline after the docks closed. The girls got to ride the Echo Wheel to see the city from above, and collected data in and around the Albert Docks. The range of leisure activities and the high quality of the built environment was evident.



## HOUSE PERFORMING ARTS

Our Year 12 production teams did an excellent job in preparing younger girls from all year groups for this year's House Performing Arts competition. They worked hard creating a piece of theatre that included drama, music and dance on the theme of 'Happily ever after'. All the plays were performed to Years 7 - 10 and culminated in an evening performance in front of delighted parents.



## JUNIOR SCHOOL

It's been a very busy first half-term here at the Junior School as the girls get used to their new classes and the Reception girls settle into school life. There have been a few changes, notably the change of House names to become the same as those in the Senior School, enabling exciting joint events in the future. Our new House Captains have already taken to their roles admirably.

The Chess Club goes from strength to strength and our team of eight girls from Years 4, 5 and 6 are to be congratulated on their recent win at the Nottingham East Chess League. Well done girls. Our Year 5 and 6 girls begin heats again in our annual Windblowers Cup competition, so good luck to all those taking part.



Celebrating the Rugby World Cup in style, the entire Junior School took part in a Haka which was great fun and enjoyed by the girls and all those who watched their performance. They did a great job too!



With that, let me wish you all a restful half-term break and here's to more adventures when we return in November.

With best wishes

**Miss Julie Keller, Acting Executive Head of the Junior School**



## MACMILLAN BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

Year 4 girls (and their parents) baked lots of delicious cakes which they sold in the Dining Hall in aid of Macmillan cancer care on the Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning. It was a great success with an overwhelming choice of goodies on offer, and the girls made nearly £340 on the day. Well done everybody - great job!



## YEAR 1 VISIT TO NOTTS FIRE AND RESCUE

This term the girls in Year 1 are learning about fire, so their trip was to the Nottingham Central Fire Station. They met Firefighter Andy who took them into the Fire Station and showed them all the different equipment inside and explained what important job each thing was used for. He also told them some important fire safety information and how to call the Fire Brigade if they see a fire.



## YEAR 5 VISIT TO MR STRAW'S HOUSE

Girls from Year 5 kicked off their study of Twentieth Century Britain with a very hands-on visit to the National Trust's 'Mr Straw's House' in Worksop. Here, they experienced home life before the advent of modern day necessities such as white goods, television, radio and central heating. Highlights of the trip



included wash day and rag rug making. The girls were unanimous - they prefer their warm, dry, comfortable and clean Twenty First Century lives!

## YEAR 6 TRIP TO BEAUMANOR HALL

On 22 September, Year 6 visited Beaumanor Hall as part of their work on the theme of "Keep Calm and Carry On". Dressed as evacuees, the girls were taken to the village hall where the plan for the day was outlined by the billeting officer.



After being reprimanded for not carrying ID cards, they took part in activities designed to help them understand the effects of rationing and how the British gained intelligence on German tactics. After lunch, there was an air raid so everyone sheltered in the basement and sang songs to keep cheerful. The girls were very enthusiastic and learnt a great deal, commenting that they were better able to empathise with the people who had lived through such demanding times.



## YEAR 3 TRIP TO SOUTHWELL WORKHOUSE

Year 3 were very brave when they met the very strict Master and Matron at the workhouse. They learnt about what it would be like to be a Victorian pauper and decided that they really preferred going to our lovely school in 2015!



## SENIOR SPORT

### SWIMMING

Huge congratulations to Rosie Rudin who became a world record breaker and gold medallist at the Fina World Junior Swimming Championships held in Singapore in August. Rosie broke the championship record in the women's 400m IM final and became the first female swimmer ever under 4:40 at a Junior World Championships. Well done Rosie, on a remarkable achievement.



### CATHEDRAL TOUR

We were delighted to welcome girls and staff from the Cathedral School in Australia on their netball tour of the UK.

The girls spent some time coaching the Junior girls and in the afternoon they played against our Senior teams and emerged victorious. It was sad to say goodbye but we hope to host a visiting team from Australia again next year.



### NETBALL

Our Year 7 netball team had their first matches on Saturday 26 September at the Loughborough Festival of Sport. They played very well and were runners up - a fantastic start to their first season.



Congratulations also to the U15 netball girls who finished third in the GDST Trust Rally in Northampton - a great result for them.



We have a large squad of talented netball players in Years 12 and 13 so for the first time ever we were able to enter two teams into the County tournament. Both played superb netball with the A team winning all their matches convincingly making them County Champions! Then, to round off a brilliant start to the season, the U16 girls also became County Champions and are on their way to regionals. Well done all of you.



### HOCKEY

Well done to the U14 hockey team who were runners up at the recent County Hockey - a great start to the season.



And special congratulations to the U16 hockey team who became County Champions - great play girls.



### BADMINTON

Congratulations to Year 8 and 9 on becoming City Badminton Champions.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### Friday 6 November

Year 5 visit to the National Media Museum, Bradford

#### Saturday 7 November

Friends of NGHS reunion lunch  
11.30am - 3.30pm

#### Tuesday 10 November

Junior House Music competition  
6.00pm - 7.30pm

#### Wednesday 25 November

Music at Michaelmas concert  
St Peter's Church 7.00pm - 9.00pm

#### Thursday 26 November

Come and see us at work day  
9.15am - 12.15pm

#### Thursday 3 December

Year 3 Old Time Music Hall  
Junior Hall 6.30pm

#### Tuesday 8 December

Winter Lights Junior Concert  
Dining Hall 6.00pm - 8.00pm

#### Wednesday 9 December

EYFS Nativity  
Junior Hall 2.30pm - 3.30pm  
140 Years Celebration Concert  
Senior Hall 7.00pm - 9.00pm

#### Thursday 10 and Friday 11 December

KS1 Nativity  
Junior Hall 2.30pm - 3.30pm

#### Tuesday 15 December

Junior School Carol Service  
All Saints' Church 2.15pm - 3.30pm

#### Friday 18 December

Autumn Term ends 1.00pm

