



Nottingham Girls' High School marks the centenary of Women's Suffrage

Nottingham Girls' High School has taken part in a very special day marking the centenary of women's suffrage and votes for women.

2018 marks 100 years since Parliament passed a law which allowed some women, and all men, to vote for the first time, and as an all-girls school it was pertinent that this occasion was marked in an appropriate fashion. The school is one of 25 schools and academies belonging to the Girls' Day School Trust (GDST) which has a rich history of involvement in the women's movement. Notable alumnae include Emily Davison who attended Kensington High School (now Kensington Prep), remembered famously for throwing herself in front of the King's Horse at Epsom.

On Friday 16 February Nottingham Girls' High School held a whole day dedicated to the issues around women's suffrage, incorporating this into the curriculum through themed lessons and discussions. Geography lessons focussed on women's rights around the world; Religious Studies looked at the ordination of women priests; Maths lessons studied Bletchley Park and female codebreakers – there really was something to cover in every area of the curriculum.



Girls and staff came to school dressed in fashion from across the century, and there was also a special event in the school's performing arts centre in coalition with the National Council of Young Women. The event consisted of workshops on Women in Power, Women in Business and Overcoming Misogyny, and was attended by NCYW members from around the country, and some very influential guest speakers including Lillian Greenwood MP, Nora Senior CBE, and Apprentice star, Elizabeth McKenna. All of them were well received and had some positive words of advice for the

girls, including to "recognise and use your power" as a woman in the world of politics; to have the confidence to not only smash through the glass ceiling, but the glass cage, in the world of business, and "be a radiator not a drain" of energy and positivity. The overall message from all three speakers was that girls should have confidence and faith in their strengths and abilities, and not be afraid to persevere in their pursuit of what they really want in the world.

School Head, Julie Keller, has recently had an article published in the tes about empowering women to take on school leadership, and was thrilled that the school was taking part in these significant celebrations in such a positive way. She said: "It's hard to believe that women have come such a long way in certain respects, yet still have such a long way to go in others. As a girls' school, I feel it is our moral responsibility to educate and empower future female leaders to redress the balance; women fought for this right and we should absolutely do it justice."

The day culminated in a procession of girls dressed in period costume, cheered on or jeered by staff for and against votes for women. A rally followed in the Sports Hall including a re-enactment of a debate from the school archives dating back to January 1899, and pitching so called 'Blue Stocking' girls against 'Society Girls'.

It was an incredible and educational day which girls, staff and guests enjoyed enormously. Bringing history and politics to life in this way was a valuable lesson for the girls, and brought home to them just how significant the suffragette movement had been.



Notes to Editors

About Nottingham Girls' High School

Nottingham Girls' High School is an independent day school for girls between the ages of 4 – 18. Part of the GDST (Girls' Day School Trust) Nottingham Girls' High School is one of the largest schools within the group with over 800 pupils.

About the GDST

The Girls' Day School Trust (GDST) is the leading group of independent girls' schools in the UK, with nearly 4,000 staff and 20,000 students between the ages of three and 18. As a charity that owns and runs a family of 23 schools and two academies in England and Wales, it reinvests all its income in its schools. Founded in 1872, the GDST has a long history of pioneering innovation in the education of girls.

For more details about GDST schools, please go to www.gdst.net and follow us on Twitter @GDST