



NOTTINGHAM GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

Experts in educating girls from 4-18 years

Leading. Learning. Loving it.

INSIGHT

July 2016 Issue 47

Dear Parents, Girls and Friends of NGHS

What a super year it's been! The highlight for me of course was becoming Head of this amazing school after Easter, watching it grow from strength to strength and being involved in so many things with the girls and the parents. Even though it's only been one term, it has been packed with open events and performances in both the Senior and Junior Schools, and I've loved every minute and hope you'll enjoy sharing the memories in this newsletter.

The 140 year focus has been one of many highlights and I must congratulate everybody for the many and varied creative ways in which they managed to celebrate this, from the 'learn something new' initiative, to the 140



year lessons, to the fabulous Junior School Garden Party and of course culminating in our wonderful Summer Arts Festival. A lot of people worked really hard to arrange and organise these events and I'd like to thank them all - I truly appreciate their efforts and I



know that everybody who participated had a great time too.

Consistently impressed by the level of talent on display at the school, I have thoroughly enjoyed attending as many performances as possible, and loved the clever, funny and colourful Year 6 production as well as the many musical concerts - we really are a school full of



characters! The recently returned Choir Tour of Italy was a tremendous success and very well received by all accounts - well done to all involved, showcasing our talent far and wide. Sports Days at the Junior and Senior Schools have also been a lot of fun and have highlighted more emerging sporting ability across all years. It was lovely to see so many



parents and friends cheering their daughters on. Successes have been coming thick and fast in other fields this term too as you will see, individual and team successes which have made me very proud. I look forward to celebrating more success with the girls in the summer when their hard work pays off and they receive their exam results.

There has been a lot of meeting and greeting going on too and I have enjoyed the various 'welcome' and induction events, seeing the excitement and enthusiasm of new Year 7 and Sixth Form girls and getting to know their parents. I just know they're going to settle in well come September and have a happy and successful time with us.



On a more personal level, meeting so many of you at parental seminars and individually has been a real pleasure and I thank you all for attending, helping my vision of more parental involvement come to fruition. As a result of these meetings and your feedback, the school will be launching new Music and Sports strategies, ensuring that everybody has an opportunity to take part, progress and improve in these areas. This result along with appearing on Radio Nottingham reviewing the newspapers, watching the Performing Arts Centre grow and near completion have all made this term truly memorable and satisfying for me.

Of course, the end of a school year inevitably brings with it lots of changes, and sadly we have to say goodbye and thank you to a few members of our staff:

Ms Julie Davis started at the school in 2005 as a teacher of English and soon became Head of English due to her expertise and commitment, instilling a love of the subject in all girls she taught. More recently, Julie has been a lynchpin of our Senior Leadership Team in her role as Assistant Head (Teaching and Learning) during which she has brought the school on in leaps and bounds with regards to its teaching and learning provision. We will miss Julie hugely but will always be grateful for the improvements she has made which keep the school at the top of its game. She goes on to take up an Assistant Headship at Trent College, and we wish her the best of luck.

We're also saying farewell to Mrs Rita Wynne who retires at the end of the term after eleven years at NGHS. Fulfilling several roles at the school including being a teacher of PE as well as a teacher of Maths, Rita is perhaps most fondly known as the friendly face of Year 7 being Head of that year. Always welcoming and supportive, Rita has been the 'go to' person for girls as they start life in the Senior School. Her friendly, calm and reassuring manner have really helped girls to settle in over the years, and she has thrown herself wholeheartedly into all Year 7 induction events. An invaluable member of staff, we will miss her greatly but hope she enjoys her well-deserved retirement, and look forward to welcoming her back in her new guise as School Governor!

Mrs Debie Silito has been a dedicated and committed member of the RS Department since 2002, engaging girls in philosophical matters for many years. Debie has been instrumental in organising significant RS trips such as those to Amsterdam and to the Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre, as well as setting up the 'Face to Faith' video conferences that the girls have found so useful in their studies. Having been here for such a considerable period of time, Debie has taught countless girls and seen them do well in her subject; they will doubtless miss her as much as we will, and we hope she takes our best wishes with her.

Mr Phil Read is also leaving us to enjoy his retirement after eight years in the Chemistry Department. Phil has made a big impact in Chemistry with his fun and often hands-on practical lessons which the girls will always remember. His love of Ecology and particularly birdwatching have also played a part in the life of the school, and he has organised several

trips for girls and staff alike, to share his enthusiasm for nature. A keen participant in several charity events including the Three Peaks Challenge, Mr Read will be missed by all of us. We hope that he has a restful retirement but suspect he will be as active as ever!

It's also time say goodbye to Mrs Diane Carnill from Humanities. She joined us originally in 2006 turning her hand to several subjects, but predominantly Geography for which she is best known. Diane has been a popular teacher and a good friend to girls and staff alike, sharing her love of Geography and passion for travel. We wish her all the very best for the future and hope that she gets to see even more of the world.

Miss Linsey Paul leaves us after a year in the Art Department to concentrate on her business ventures, in which we wish her lots of luck. We shall all miss Linsey's enthusiastic and cheerful presence in her lessons and around the school, and the girls will undoubtedly remember regular visits from her little dog, Lenny.

Miss Lucy Wyatt has been with us for a year as Cover Supervisor and has been an invaluable help stepping in where needed, invigilating exams and also willingly taking part in Outreach events and having to dress up as an elf! She goes on to Bluecoat School to train as an English teacher and we wish her all the best.

In the Junior School, we say goodbye to Miss Helen Wilson who joined us to teach Year 4 girls in 2014. Helen has been a wonderful asset to the Junior School and the girls have enjoyed her friendly nature and dedication which we will all miss greatly.

We mustn't forget the brilliant technical support we've had from Andrew Boylan and Hader Finjan in ICT, and Joseph Eyre in Biology who also leave us this summer. Thank you so much.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the out-going Head Girl and Prefect teams who have been superb and a pleasure to work with, and say "good luck" to new Head Girl Jenny Raw, and her team who take over; I know they're going to do a great job.



Congratulations are in order too, as we have a few summer weddings on the cards. Miss Hannah Callow from the Junior School, Mrs Frances Dorrian from the Maths Department and Miss Rebecca Lewis, Assistant Head will be getting married during the holidays. We wish them all the very best.

I'd like to conclude by thanking you all for your continued support, particularly during this last term, which has helped me enormously in settling into my role as Head. I know that the Junior School will be in safe hands with the arrival of Laura Fowler in September, and I look forward to a great working partnership, carrying on the 'whole school' ethos which has worked so well. I'm sure the netball tour to Antigua will be a fabulous experience and a great success, and I wish everybody a safe journey and can't wait to hear all about it on their return.



Special thanks to our parents who have kindly sponsored the Antigua team kit.



So, have a wonderful summer everybody. Relax, have fun and enjoy precious family time together, and come back to us refreshed and ready to take on another exciting and successful school year.

With best wishes
Miss Julie Keller, Head



MULTI ACTIVITY WEEK

Year 9 enjoyed the most amazing week of outdoor adventures with the Exploration Society at St David's in Wales during the half-term break. The girls camped out and took part in all sorts of pursuits including climbing, kayaking and even surfing. They were blessed with good weather throughout and came back completely enthused about their incredible experiences.



YEAR 10 FRENCH TRIP TO NORMANDY

Year 10 French students enjoyed their half-term trip to Normandy despite the possibility of strike action and bad weather! The trip turned out to be a great success and the girls enjoyed being immersed in French culture and practising their language skills. They visited the war graves, the Normandy beaches, Mont Saint-Michel, and saw the Bayeux Tapestry. Of course they also had to try snails and frog's legs - perhaps not the most enjoyable part of the trip for some!



YEAR 12 PHYSICS OGDEN ROCKET CHALLENGE

On Wednesday 22 July, Sixth Form teams from several local schools arrived at Kimberley School to take part in the Ogden Trust Rocket Challenge. The teams tackled some demanding rocket science calculations, then designed and built their rockets before letting them loose on the launchers. Competition was fierce and our girls did well - their final shot was good, scoring points for proximity to the target but it wasn't quite enough and so in the end they

took a well-deserved second place! Lots of use of A Level Physics! Well done girls!



YEAR 10 RS TRIP TO THE NATIONAL GALLERY

Year 10 RS girls had a great day in London at the National Gallery looking at religious art. The girls saw the work of the great masters of the art world such as Leonard Da Vinci, Raphael and Michelangelo. They also had an opportunity to do a bit of sightseeing in London having lunch in Trafalgar Square with Nelson's Column, the famous lions, the Fourth plinth and the fountains for company.



GDST YOUNG CHEMIST OF THE YEAR

We welcomed five other GDST schools to take part in a Young Chemist of the Year competition during which small groups of Year 12 girls took part in a series of experiments including using chemical reactions to cool drinks, and analysing organic compounds. The girls had a really good time and everybody received a small trophy for taking part. The overall winner was from Howell's School but all participants did really well.



EU REFERENDUM

Girls and staff across the school took part in a mock referendum on the same day as the actual EU Referendum but with very different results! With a 91% turnout our girls voted 98% Remain and 15% Leave. This was a valuable educational experience for the girls who campaigned and voted and discussed political issues throughout the whole campaign, and beyond.



YEAR 7 HOUSE CHORAL SPEAKING

This year's House Choral Speaking was full of excitement. Having each learnt a poem in advance, the Year 7 girls were given the challenge to plan and rehearse a performance in only an hour before delivering it to the rest of the year group. All Houses performed well. Their Year 12 House Captains choreographed and taught them the performances with expertise so, in all, it was a close call. However, despite a slick performance from Luxton, Hastings won, offering professional, animated and engaging delivery throughout. Congratulations to all involved!



YEAR 7 RS TRIP TO ST PETER'S CHURCH

Staff walked the whole of Year 7 down into town to have an early lunch in the Market Square. They were incredibly lucky and had lovely sunny weather so enjoyed getting milkshakes and snacks before moving down to the church to start their studies. Some started off outside, sketching and photographing some of the ornate architecture and

religious symbolism, while others started inside and began to follow their activity booklet and tour. The girls worked with enthusiasm and speed to gather a wealth of information in this beautiful, traditional church.



YEAR 12 BIOLOGY RESIDENTIAL

Year 12 Biologists spent an enjoyable few days at the Preston Montford Field Centre at the end of June. The girls learnt some ecology terms, did some biological drawings, pond sampling and getting acquainted with some moths and small mammals. Overall it was a great experience.



PRIDE 2016

Celebrating diversity and all things LGBT, the school held a Pride event in the Atrium during which girls and staff had a great time and also learnt the importance of acceptance and tolerance of everybody, equally. This was a great success and everybody really enjoyed the day.



TRIUMPH DESIGN AWARDS

Congratulations to Gabby Smith who attended the Triumph Design Awards on Saturday 2 July at their factory in



Hinckley Leicestershire with her A Level Product Design project 'Tri-Kart'. They had over 200 entries this year and only invite the top 25 students in the country to display their work and discuss their project with the top designers at Triumph. Gabby was one of only two girls who made the final 25 in the country which makes this an incredible achievement. Although she did not win the overall 1st prize, she gained The 'Triumph Design Award Achievement for Outstanding Innovation' and the 'Triumph Design Award Achievement for Outstanding Visual Design'.



ROWING

Eliza Cox did really well at the National Schools' Regatta at the start of June in which Nottingham Rowing Club achieved a Gold and three Silvers.



140 YEAR CELEBRATIONS AT THE SENIOR SCHOOL

Continuing to celebrate the school's anniversary, there were some very informative lessons based around the number 140 ranging from the identification of 140 different species around the school site in Biology, to



performing 140 different Shakespeare quotes in 140 different hats in Drama! The girls learnt lots on this day and the theme continued later in the term too with a climbing challenge to see how many times the climbing wall could be scaled in 140 seconds. All girls really embraced these activities and had a great time doing so.



BABY BONNETS

Girls from the Knitting Club along with family and friends made over 200 baby bonnets for the Neonatal Intensive



Care Unit at the City Hospital. Originally planning to knit 140 to fit in with the school's anniversary theme, the group found themselves inundated with donations. They went along to the unit to hand them over to the Family Care Co-ordinator and have a little look around. The girls were so moved by their visit that they have decided to knit blankets and toys too. Well done girls.



JUNIOR SCHOOL GARDEN PARTY

The Junior girls held a very special garden party to celebrate the school's 140 year anniversary during which they buried a time capsule, and danced around the Maypole! The whole school gathered by the totem pole and a representative from each class popped something into the time capsule to represent some element of the school for future generations to see. Miss Keller then sealed the lid and placed the capsule in the ground, and a special tree was planted there to mark the spot.



There followed a lovely garden party at which parents and guests watched the girls perform intricate dances around the Maypole. Mr Rolfe led girls in singing to entertain the guests as they tucked into tea and cakes. Meanwhile, in the Hall, a Victorian photo booth was set up so that girls and their parents and friends could dress up and have their photographs taken in an old fashioned style. The whole day was a great success and enjoyed by everybody who attended.



JUNIOR SCHOOL

EYFS VISIT HAMMOND'S FARM

Our EYFS girls enjoyed a look around Hammond's Farm to learn about food production and other farming issues. They had a lovely day in the sunshine finding out about farm life and what happens to crops to make them become their favourite cereals and other food products.



EYFS AND KS1 TRIP TO WHITE POST FARM

On a lovely sunny afternoon our EYFS and KS1 girls went to White Post Farm and had a wonderful time. They met all sorts of creatures from the cute and cuddly to the slithery and scary, but were still brave enough to feed some and handle them all.



YEAR 1 PIRATE DAY AT BEAUMANOR HALL

Year 1 girls had a fabulous trip to Beaumanor Hall for their Pirate Day

during which they had lots of fun and even followed a treasure map to find the hidden treasure.



YEAR 3 SHERWOOD PINES RESIDENTIAL

Year 3 girls had loads of fun at Sherwood Pines and a sleepover in the Junior School Hall! Despite some distinctly dodgy weather, the trip was a great success. The girls, teachers and amazing parent helpers went along to explore Sherwood Pines. They played in the play area and built dens out of



branches - the perfect place to hide when the rains came. Back at school, the girls did lots of exciting outdoor activities - the low ropes in Upnah Wood, archery and climbing on the climbing wall. And how else could they round off outdoor fun but with a camp fire and toasted marshmallows. Then it was into the Junior Hall for a movie before settling down in their sleeping bags for a good night's sleep. The next morning the girls were treated to a delicious breakfast in the Dining Hall before having more educational fun. What a fantastic time they all had.



YEAR 4 CRANEDALE RESIDENTIAL

Year 4 enjoyed a lovely trip to the Yorkshire Wolds at the Cranedale Centre at the end of June. They did lots of exciting outdoor activities such as charcoal making, meeting farm livestock, hunting for hedgerow insects and climbing on the combine harvester!



YEAR 5 BELVOIR CRICKET AND COUNTRYSIDE DAY

Year 5 girls had a brilliant day in the sunshine at the Belvoir Estate where they tested their cricket skills and showed some real progress in their bowling and batting abilities. They also met the hounds and some beautiful birds of prey and even got to handle them, including the wonderful Barn Owl and an Eagle, which they really enjoyed.



YEAR 5 TRIP TO ANNIE'S BURGER SHACK

Year 5 girls enjoyed "the best trip EVER" to Annie's Burger Shack as part of their DT project. They had to design, price-up and market their own burgers from scratch using whatever ingredients they liked. They learnt a lot from Annie who told them all about her journey



and how they too could be successful businesswomen if they followed their dreams and worked hard. Needless to say, the girls really enjoyed this experience and none of them needed any tea when they got home!



YEAR 6 PRODUCTION

Year 6 girls put on a spectacular performance of the specially written 'Alice in Upnah-Land' and it was just brilliant! A combination of Wonderland and our own school's history made for a colourful and entertaining experience which the audience really appreciated. Great acting, singing and dancing by everybody - well done, and well done to Mrs Keys for - putting it all together too!



JUNIOR CHESS

With 50+ players ranging from Years 2 to 6, Junior Chess Club offers our girls the chance to build their resilience and test their mettle and wits against one another, as well as against boys



and girls from other schools. Our most advanced players even compete beyond Nottinghamshire.

This term, congratulations go to Riyaa Samra and Yana Gandhi for not only winning their age-group sections of the UK Chess Challenge when it was played in school earlier this year, but also for scoring maximum points (21/21) and winning all seven of their games! In recognition of this achievement they have been awarded special prizes by the national organiser, which were presented recently by our Chess Master, Mr Crawley. From the Nottinghamshire Mega-Final, Anika Khanna (Under 8), Iqra Janjua (Under 9), Gauri Khanna and Ria Gandhi (Under 10), and Annabelle Arnold (Under 11) now go forward to the semi-final of this national competition to be held in Manchester in July.



AEON TENNIS MASCOTS

A great day at the Aegon Tennis in Nottingham, especially for Valerie and Lieve who were chosen as buddy walkers for the men's semi finals. What an honour - well done girls.



JUNIOR FOOTBALL

The girls travelled to Bolton School in June to take part in an ISFA (Independent Schools' Football Association) tournament and did really well with Nottingham A in 2nd place, Nottingham B in 3rd and Nottingham C in 5th. We are very proud of the progress that has been made by our footballers in this their first year of competition - they've come a long way in a short time. Brilliant!



SENIOR SPORT

ATHLETICS

Some fabulous performances in athletics this term. Congratulations firstly to Liberte Taylor who won a medal in the 100m at the County Athletics Finals in June. Great race Liberte!



The Year 9 and 10 athletes enjoyed ice-cream after coming third in the KO Cup Athletics at Grantham in June. Great performance girls.



Following on from this, Year 10 became Champions and Year 9 were runners-up by 1 point at City Athletics. Fantastic results all of you – well done.



Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Year 7 and 8 City Athletics Championships. It was such a close result again and the Year 7s were pipped at the post by a single point, while the Year 8s were also second, by 8 points.



TENNIS

Some great play in City Tennis tournaments this term. Emily Geeson Bond and Lucy Arnold were runners up in Year 10, and in Year 8, Daisy Price



and Hannah Laughton were winners with Rosie Staniforth and Jess Scott as runners up.



GCSE PE CLIMBING GROUP

Well done to the girls who went to the Peaks with Miss Lynn and successfully completed their climbing practical.



ROUNDERS

Rain stopped play at the Trust Rally in Queenswood but Year 10 found success later in the month becoming City Champions. Congratulations!



Meanwhile, the Year 8 and 9 team having already secured City Championship status then went on to become County Champions at the Nottinghamshire School Games. Well done.



STRAWBERRIES AND CREAM

The sun shone on our Strawberries and Cream Tennis Festival and everybody had a wonderful time. Congratulations to eventual winners Anna and Caroline.



SPORTS DAY

Sports Day went ahead despite a 'mixed' weather forecast but most events managed to stay dry. Everybody had a lot of fun with the Houses in good voice. The scores were incredibly close but the eventual winners were Hastings. Well done!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 7 September

Autumn term begins
Year 12 parents' welcome and update on A Level reforms, from 4.00pm

Friday 9 September

Year 3 visit to Southwell Workhouse
Year 3 parents' dinner at Sinatra Bar & Restaurant

Tuesday 13 September

Year 7 parents and girls iPad workshop, 4.00pm

Wednesday 14 September

Year 8 - 13 Northern Trust Rally, Shrewsbury
Year 1 trip to Sudbury Hall
Greece trip parents' evening, 7.00pm

Thursday 15 September

Celebration and Awards Evening, Albert Hall, 6.30pm - 9.00pm

Tuesday 20 September

Year 5 trip to Mr Straw's House

Friday 23 September

Year 7 Icebreaker event, 6.30pm

Monday 26 September

EYFS Phonics and Maths parents' workshop, 6.00pm - 7.00pm
Year 10 Bronze D of E launch night, Senior Hall, 6.00pm - 7.00pm

Tuesday 27 September

Year 6 WW2 trip to Beaumanor Hall

Wednesday 28 September

Year 11, Sixth Form Opportunities evening, Sports Hall, 4.30pm - 6.30pm
Year 12 Gold D of E launch night, Senior Hall, 6.00pm - 7.00pm

Thursday 29 September

Junior School individual photographs
House Performing Arts Festival, 6.30pm

Friday 30 September

Junior School individual photographs

Monday 3 October

Years 10 and 12 Art trip to Kew Gardens
Year 9 Bronze D of E launch night, Senior Hall, 6.00pm - 7.00pm

Goose Fair 5 - 9 October

Thursday 6 October

Year 9 Geography trip
Year 11 Silver D of E launch night, Senior Hall, 6.00pm - 7.00pm

Monday 10 October

Building Learning Power seminar, Junior Hall, 6.00pm - 7.00pm

Wednesday 12 October

Year 4 Roman trip to Lincoln
Lower School concert, Senior Hall, 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Thursday 13 October

New parent tutor evening and assessment descriptor talk, Senior Hall, from 4.30pm

Friday 14 October

Non-Uniform Day
Year 8 Biology trip to Sherwood Pines
Year 6 and 7 Hockey tour to Holland (return Monday 17 October)

Half Term - Monday 17 October to Friday 28 October