



# NOTTINGHAM GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

Experts in educating girls from 4-18 years

*Leading. Learning. Loving it.*

## INSIGHT

May 2016 Issue 46

### Dear Parents, Girls and Friends of NGHS

I can't believe I've come to the end of my first half term as Head - it's been an absolute whirlwind! I'd like to thank everybody for their support and positive feedback which has helped enormously during this period of settling in. It's been lovely meeting so many of you at the 'Meet the New Head' events and I appreciate all of your comments and ideas. I really hope to involve parents more in school life generally - it's part of my overall vision for NGHS and I'm sure I can rely your participation in anything we plan for the future.

It's been a busy time with lots going on and preparation for lots more to come. We had a brilliant Sports Awards Evening to celebrate and recognise our girls' sporting achievements. I'd like to thank the PE department for organising this event so successfully; it really went well.



Our Taster Day was fantastic with lots of Year 5 visitors sampling the great 'girls only' education on offer. The school was really buzzing with their enthusiasm and excitement and they had a brilliant time and some lovely things to say about the school. I look forward to welcoming them in the future.



We also reached a milestone in the development of our epic Performing Arts Centre at a traditional 'Topping Out' ceremony attended by governors, developers, staff and girls. A special plaque was signed which will be incorporated into the actual building. This is so exciting - this magnificent project is becoming very real as it gets ever nearer completion.



It was lovely to meet over 100 of our alumnae and former staff at the recent reunion event on 7 May. This was a particularly special gathering as it formed part of our 140 year anniversary celebrations. There was a fabulous lunch in the Dining Hall, tours of the school and afternoon tea and cakes in the Senior Hall in the afternoon. It's so nice to see ex-pupils showing an interest in the school and giving us their support. They all had a great time and it was a lovely day all round.



We have had a few events based around careers over the past few weeks as the Senior girls begin to think of the future. Year 9 had an enterprise day during which they had to work in groups to plan a fundraising event and design an item of promotional merchandise. Year 10 girls took part in a 'Careers at Speed' event where they had the opportunity



to ask quick-fire questions to several visiting professionals about their careers. I know the girls find these types of activities really useful and I greatly appreciate the help and involvement of those parents who offer their services and expertise.



There has of course been an array of enjoyable trips and lots of events based around our 140 year anniversary celebrations. I do hope you have all put Saturday 2 July in your diaries when we have our big Arts Festival at school - it's going to be a great day and a great way to acknowledge 140 years of NGHS and I'd love to see lots of you there.

We said goodbye to our Year 13 girls of course, and their last day was absolutely brilliant. Everybody looked amazing in their Disney costumes and I really enjoyed being part of their final celebrations - and even managed to stay dry! I am incredibly grateful to the Head





Girl, Deputies and Senior Prefect Team for all of their hard work during the year, and I wish them and ALL girls who have started their exams, the very best of luck.

Meanwhile, I hope you all have a lovely break and manage to spend some time relaxing, including the Year 10 girls and staff going out on the Normandy trip, and of course all of those revising for their exams.

With best wishes  
**Miss Julie Keller, Head**



### HESTON BLUMENTHAL TEACHES MR ELLIS ABOUT FOOD TECHNOLOGY

At the GCSE food skills course, organised by OCR, Heston Blumenthal and his team from the Fat Duck were demonstrating a number of different cooking skills for teachers at the Waitrose kitchen in London. Mr Ellis tried his hand at fish filleting, sauce making and knife skills and even appeared on TV later in the day.



### YOUNG ENTERPRISE SUCCESS

Our Young Enterprise team, Nova, have seen some great successes over the past few months with their product the 'Write Mug' which they designed and marketed themselves. The girls had a stall in the Old Market Square where they sold the mugs and they



won the prize for Best Innovation at the Nottingham Young Enterprise Area Finals. They then went on to the County Finals at which they picked up the prize for Best Presentation - well done girls, for showing some great business sense.



### SCIENCE OLYMPIAD SUCCESS

Well done to the girls who received their certificates for these prestigious awards this term. Our Sixth Form Biologists and Chemists have worked really hard attending extra sessions in their own time and completing test papers to obtain this well-deserved recognition from the Royal Society of Biology and Chemistry respectively.



### YEAR 11 GCSE DRAMA

Our Drama groups rehearsed and performed their GCSE pieces in front of a live audience in April and were very successful. The girls performed Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible' and a

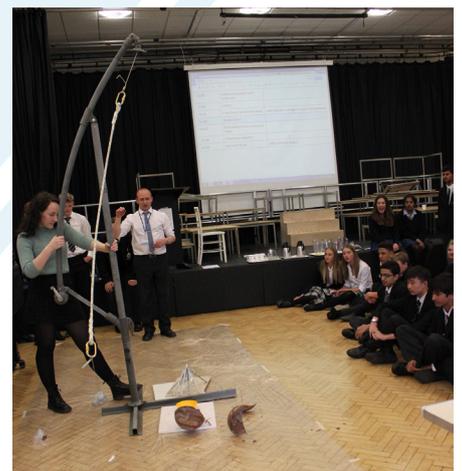


piece entitled 'Find Me' by Olwen Wymark which focuses on the issue of autism. They did really well and were very confident putting in really polished performances.



### SAVE THE WORLD!

Year 9 recently had the chance to save the world from imminent destruction by asteroid in the Ogden Trust Physics Challenge. The girls and other visiting Year 9 physicists had to design a form of defence to protect a chocolate globe from the impact of a swinging rock and see whose design did the best job. Everybody had a lot of fun and the earth even managed to survive fairly unscathed for some groups, but not all!



## JUNIOR SCHOOL

The Junior School has been busy as ever during these past few weeks with two residential trips taking place and lots of exciting in-school activities. It's amazing how the nicer weather makes the girls even more cheerful than usual - we see end-to-end smiles when the sun is shining. Year 6 girls are to be commended on their 'no fuss' approach to the recent SATs, and everybody else has been working really hard too. Year 4 and Year 5 have impressed everybody at their musical concerts, and the girls also enjoyed a mini sports festival with the help of the Year 10 Sports Leaders - great teamwork on show.



I have to mention Miss Olivia Wildt particularly as she has done some great work during the past year to steer the school forward in its provision of science teaching and learning, securing us a Bronze PSQM (Primary Science Quality Mark) which is fantastic.



The remainder of the summer term promises to be super busy as there are lots of things planned - trips, performances and 140 year celebrations of course, so let me wish you all a restful break in readiness of things to come.

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

### YEAR 5 RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO BOGGLE HOLE

Year 5 were blessed with truly amazing weather on their three-day residential near Whitby at the end of April. Their summer topic was all about coastlines



- so a seashore safari, coastal walks, beach combing and exploration of Robin Hood's Bay and Whitby really gave our girls a taste of tidal zone habitats, cliff erosion and coastal communities. A visit to Whitby Abbey was made complete when it coincided with a huge gathering of goths - the girls' eyes were out on stalks!



### YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO DOBROYD

An exciting residential trip to Dobroyd Castle Activity Centre was enjoyed by the Year Six girls from the 25 - 27 April. Despite the inclement weather (rain, hail, snow, wind and a bit of sun) spirits were not dampened and the girls demonstrated their willingness to 'have a go' at all the activities, even if it meant jumping into a lake whilst it was snowing! It was inspiring to watch the girls swing from a trapeze even if they did not like heights, cross a piranha infested pool and conquer the challenges of the Dungeon of Doom.



### PRIMARY SCIENCE QUALITY MARK

The Junior School was thrilled and proud to be awarded the Round 10 PSQM Bronze Award in recognition of the great provision of science teaching done there. Miss Wildt has spent a year looking at how the school teaches science and introducing new ideas and concepts, resulting in this recognition. Silver and Gold next?



### SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY 2 JULY 10.00am - 5.00pm

Come and help us celebrate our 140 year anniversary in style at our summer arts festival, and bring all the family - there'll be something for everybody.

There will be so much to see and do you'll want to spend the whole day! Fairground rides and games - modern AND traditional - art exhibitions, craft stalls, music and dance performances by our talented girls, fun competitions and of course, lots and lots to eat and drink!

It's going to be a brilliant day and we'd love to share it with you, so put it in your diary and keep an eye on the website, twitter, and our Facebook page for more details.

### Arts Festival 2016



**Saturday 2 July**  
Celebrating 140 years of NGHS

## SENIOR SPORT

### SPORTS AWARDS EVENING

Our second Sports Awards Evening was a resounding success and our guest speaker, Gail Emms MBE, was delighted to present our sporting achievers with their prizes. An Olympic champion badminton player herself, Gail met some of our own players and staff in the afternoon before the ceremony. It was a fabulous occasion and a great way to reward our girls for the hard work and dedication they put into their sporting activities.



### ATHLETICS

Congratulations to our Junior and Intermediate athletes who both had a fantastically successful day at City Athletics as both emerged as winners which makes them City Champions.

This is a particularly great result as several of the participating girls were not those who normally take part at competitive level.



### HOCKEY

The Hockey season ended in great fashion with an 8-0 win for the Year 8 team, and Lauren Taylor in Year 7 becoming the season's highest goal scorer for which she received a trophy at the Sports Awards Evening. Well done girls!



### NETBALL

Congratulations to the Year 7B/C netballers who won the City Development League at the end of April. A great result for our younger players.

### SWIMMING

Well done to our Year 7 - 9 swimmers who were runners up at the City Swimming Gala at Harvey Hadden Stadium on 12 May. Great result girls.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Monday 6 June

GDST Junior Quiz, Northampton  
Year 5 trip to Belvoir Castle

### Tuesday 7 June

EYFS trip to Hammonds Farm

### Thursday 9 June

Year 5 Open evening and BBQ

### Friday 10 June

8H camping at Holme Pierrepont

### Wednesday 15 June

Year 9 Parents' evening, Upnah Gym

### Thursday 16 June

Year 3 residential to Sherwood Pines

### Tuesday 21 June

Junior Piano Works concert, 6.00pm

### Wednesday 22 June

U11 Trust Rounders and Tennis tournament, Northampton  
Summer Sounds concert, 7.00pm

### Thursday 23 June

Year 10 RS trip to the National Gallery

### Monday 27 - Wednesday 29 June

Year 4 trip to Cranedale

### Tuesday 28 June

EYFS to Year 2 Sports Day, 2pm  
Year 6 performance, 7.00pm

### Wednesday 29 June

Trust Tennis and Rounders rally, Queenswood  
Year 6 performance, 7.00pm

### Thursday 30 June

Junior and Year 7 welcome day  
Senior Informal piano recital, 4.15pm  
New Year 7 parents' welcome evening, Dining Hall, 6.00pm

### Saturday 2 July

Arts Festival, 10.00am - 5.00pm

### Sunday 3 - Saturday 9 July

Lake Garda Music tour

### Monday 4 July

Year 10 Parents' evening, Sports Hall

### Tuesday 5 / Wednesday 6 July

Year 9 Chemistry trip to Ecton /  
'Take your daughter to work' day

### Wednesday 6 July

Years 3 to 6 Sports Day

### Thursday 7 July

Stevensons pop up uniform shop, Senior Hall, from 9.00am  
EYFS family picnic, 2.00pm

### Friday 8 July

Year 1 trip to Beaumanor Hall

### Monday 11 July

Senior School Sports Day, Harvey Hadden

### Tuesday 12 July

Year 1 and 2 Da Capo concert, 2.00pm

### Thursday 14 July

Netball tour to Antigua depart (return Sunday 24 July)

**Summer term ends 12.30pm**