



NOTTINGHAM GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

Experts in educating girls from 4-18 years

Leading. Learning. Loving it.

INSIGHT

March 2016 Issue 45

Dear Parents, Girls and Friends of NGHS

I have spent 10 incredibly happy and special years here as Head of Nottingham Girls' High School, however, all good things come to an end and it is time to hand over that Headship.



Out of all the numerous happy memories gathered during my time at the school, I have to say that what I have always enjoyed the most has been working with the girls. It is a truly great privilege to be a Headteacher and one of my greatest pleasures has been watching the girls move up through the school and watching how they gain confidence, how they discover new talents and embrace all the opportunities available to them here; there are few careers that are so fulfilling.

I have so many memories of my Headship here - some very funny and some very sad, but I do firmly believe that this is a truly special school and the girls are the ones who make it so special. It is their wonderful team spirit, fantastic work ethic and the fact that they are so outward looking - always ready to raise money for charity or to volunteer and give up so much of their



own time to help those less fortunate than themselves. The amount of Outreach and community work that the girls do is truly amazing. It is this caring for others, for their friends, that helps to make this school the wonderful place that it is.

The school is entering another stage in its journey. There will be new experiences and challenges ahead for everyone. Those like me who are leaving this year will be moving on to the next chapters in their stories - their lives - but they will always be NGHS girls at heart and they will always be able to draw on what they have learned from school. And that is what I intend to do - I have learned a great deal from being Head and I firmly believe that we never stop learning, no matter at what stage of our lives we are.

So I am learning to be a Grandma and coping with the challenges presented by a lively little boy who seems to be attracted to anything dangerous, and leaves a trail of chaos and destruction all around him.

I shall also be spending time trying to train my mischievous dog - which promises to be a full time job and one I am not very good at judging by his current behaviour!



But most of all I look forward hugely to being able to spend more time with ALL of my wonderful family.

I would like to thank all the staff, both teaching staff and support staff here, for their tremendous support and dedication over the years, and who continue to help make this such an outstanding school.

I would like to thank all of you, our parents, for all of your support during my time here, and for working in partnership with the teaching staff and myself to encourage your daughters and ensure that they are able to be the best they can be and to thank you all too for the many cards, gifts and messages of congratulations and thanks that I have received over the last few days.

But above all I would like to thank the girls for their support, their enthusiasm, their energy and their good humour and sense of fun over the years.

I will miss life as a Head and I will miss the buzz of the school, but I have no doubt that Nottingham Girls' High School will continue to go from strength to strength, and I wish you all the very best for the future. With best wishes

Susan M Gorham, Head

GDST YOUNG MUSICIAN AND VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

Two of our girls travelled to Wimbledon High School to take part in the GDST Young Musician and Young Vocalist of the Year competition in February.

The standard was very high as representatives from each GDST school took to the stage to perform their chosen vocal and musical pieces. Our entrants, Maria on the flute and Charlotte on vocals performed brilliantly though sadly, neither were winners.

Both girls really enjoyed their visit to Wimbledon and gained a lot from taking part - we're very proud of them both.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

To celebrate International Women's Day there were lots of activities around school for the whole week including a 'selfie' competition in which the girls were photographed with their Pledge for Parity, which was this year's theme. There was also a debate with pupils from Bramcote Sixth Form College on issues relating to feminism. It was a very educational week for everybody.



HALF-TERM ADVENTURE DAYS

Our Head of Outdoor Learning, Miss Lynn, launched an Exploration Society in order for girls to experience the great outdoors in a variety of ways including a high ropes course at Holme Pierrepont, a hill walking day in Edale and a day of dry slope skiing at Swadlincote. The girls loved all of these activities and we look forward to many more adventures to come.



SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD

A group of our footballing girls were lucky enough to be selected to attend the 'Show Racism the Red Card' event at the City Ground, home of Nottingham Forest Football Club. It was a brilliant and educational day as well as being lots of fun, and one of our girls was even the winner of a signed football, much to the envy of many Forest fans no doubt!



WORLD BOOK DAY

We celebrated World Book Day in our usual fun and colourful style as girls and staff dressed up as their favourite story characters. On no other day would you be able to see Harry Potter, The Cat in the Hat, Gangsta Granny and a whole host of other amazing characters around the school. Senior girls AND staff made an effort too and Sherlock Holmes could be seen in the Staff Room enjoying coffee and biscuits with Dracula, Wally and all sorts of other folk. Of course, the serious aspect of World Book Day is to promote the love of books and reading, and we have no trouble with that here at NGHS.



BBC SCHOOL NEWS REPORT

A group of girls from several Year groups took part in the 2016 BBC School News Report, researching, producing and delivering the day's news. The girls had worked hard over several weeks practising their news gathering and reporting techniques ready for the big day, and one group had the privilege of interviewing alumna Dame Stella Rimington for their School Report item. Their final report including all of their stories, the weather report, and the video of the whole news broadcast can be found at this link <http://www.nottinghamgirlshigh.gdst.net/BBC-News-School-Report-2016>

This is a great experience and opportunity for the girls to see what really goes into making the news. Well done everybody



HMS PINAFORE

The stage in the Senior Hall looked amazing as a gunship for our production of HMS Pinafore which ran for three nights in March. It was absolutely spectacular and incredibly funny with some fantastic comedic performances as well as some wonderfully talented singing, dancing and acting. The girls were brilliant and the audience loved it and were hugely appreciative, recognising the hard work that had been put in by all involved. Well done everybody - great show!



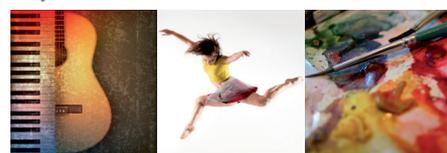
SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY 2 JULY 10.00am - 5.00pm

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

JUNIOR SCHOOL

It's hard to believe that we are already approaching the Easter break - the term has been so full of exciting things and has gone so quickly. The Infant and Junior girls have been very busy and involved in all sorts of trips, activities and performances, excelling at each with their enthusiasm, talent and good behaviour. I'm very proud of all of them and hope you enjoy reading about their exploits in this newsletter.

There are of course, changes on the horizon, and I would like to thank all of you who have sent me good wishes for my coming role as Head of the Whole School. I would also like to reassure you that I shall still be here in my Junior role until the end of the year, continuing to strengthen the 'all-through' model, forging the links between the Junior and Senior School that have been working so well. I'm very excited about the new post and delighted that my involvement with the Junior School need not be diminished.

I send Mrs Gorham my very best wishes for her retirement and well earned rest, and I look forward to continuing the excellent work that has been done.

With that, let me wish you all a restful and relaxing break. Best wishes

Miss Julie Keller, Acting Executive Head of the Junior School

CHESS

A group of generous parent volunteers rallied together to ferry our team of girls, ranging from Years 2 to 6, to Wollaton for a fiercely competitive fixture in the Nottinghamshire Girls' League in February. For some of our youngest players, this was their first time representing the school and they are to be heartily congratulated for the part which they played in our near victory.

Our fabulous team of novice Year 2 and 3 girls also took part in the Under Nines league match against other schools in March. A super effort all round considering the girls were pitted against some much more experienced players.



YEAR 1 VISIT HOLME PIERREPONT HALL

Year 1 girls explored rooms from the past at Holme Pierrepont Hall in February and met some new born Jacob lambs - always their favourite part of the trip!



YEAR 4 SPACE CENTRE TRIP

Year 4 enjoyed an 'out of this world' experience when they visited the National Space Centre in Leicestershire. The girls had a fabulous day learning all about space travel and life in outer space, and they were thrilled to have their photograph taken with Tim Peake! There were lots of hands-on activities using all sorts of space themed gadgets and controls and the girls loved playing at being astronauts.



YEAR 4 PRODUCTION - SPLASH!

Year 4 pulled out all the stops and delighted their audience with their performance of Splash! The girls worked really hard and had lots of fun putting on this witty and colourful show full of pirates (or should that be pi-RATS) and assorted birds and animals and other characters. The singing and dancing were brilliant and the jokes came



thick and fast. Well done to everybody involved - it was a fabulous night.

YEAR 5 TUDORS PROJECT

Year 5 have enjoyed their project on the Tudors with all sorts of fun, educational activities and visits. The girls enjoyed the Tudor Ball and had a visit from Bess of Hardwick who told them all about her life. They asked her lots of probing questions and took part in sewing workshops to design a dress for her, and mime workshops in order to entertain her. Their visit to Hardwick Hall provided



even more of an insight into her life in Tudor times. The girls concluded their study with a visit to the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in Stratford upon Avon including a tour of Shakespeare's childhood home. A very interesting day, packed with hands-on learning.



YEAR 6 GO TO TWYXCROSS ZOO

Year 6 had a fabulous day out at Twycross Zoo as part of their science unit: Adaptation and Evolution. This included an educational talk about natural selection and adaptation where the girls had the opportunity to touch a giant hissing cockroach and a tortoise. Highlights included a trip to the gibbon forest, the meerkats and baby primates.



SENIOR SPORT

BADMINTON

Well done to our Badminton girls who were County runners up at the Sainsbury's School Games in February. Great play girls - keep it up.



CROSS COUNTRY

Huge congratulations to girls in Years 7 and 9 for their successes at the Dagfa House Invitational Cross Country event achieving top 3 in Year 7 and 2nd and 3rd individuals in Year 9 - absolutely brilliant!



NETBALL

Congratulations to the U15 Netball squad who were WINNERS of the County Netball Tournament at The Emmanuel School on 1 March. Fantastic result.



Twenty Year 8 girls went to Conover Hall at the beginning of March for a GDST Netball tournament weekend. They won a few of their matches and



did well in the other activities too. The girls were impeccably behaved, as usual, and did the school proud.



U13 girls did very well at the County Tournament at the Emmanuel School on 16 March and emerged as runners up - great play girls.



HIGH 5 NETBALL TOURNAMENT

We welcomed lots of Year 5 visitors to join us for the annual High 5 Netball Tournament on 16 March and it was great fun. Fast paced action assisted and umpired by the Year 10 Sports Leaders made for a great afternoon. Thanks and well done to all involved.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 19 April

Summer term begins
Student and parent meeting for Greenland trip, Senior Hall

Wednesday 20 - Friday 22 April

Year 5 residential trip to Boggle Hole

Friday 22 April

Year 10 Geography trip

Monday 25 - Wednesday 27 April

Year 6 residential trip to Dobroyd

Wednesday 27 April

Sports Awards Evening, Sports Hall

Monday 2 May

May Day Bank Holiday

Tuesday 3 May

Year 13 Leavers' farewell reception

Friday 6 May

Year 5 Taster Day

Saturday 7 May

140 Years of NGHS Celebratory lunch

Wednesday 11 May

Year 5 Informal Concert, Junior Hall

Thursday 12 - Friday 13 May

Year 3 residential trip to Conkers

Tuesday 17 May

Year 8 Geography trip to Burbage Brook

Wednesday 18 May

Year 4 Informal Concert, Junior Hall

Tuesday 24 May

Year 7 Geography trip to Cromford

Friday 27 May

Junior School 140 celebration garden party
Sixth Form Ball, Colwick Hall

Friday 27 - Monday 30 May

Year 10 Normandy trip

Monday 30 - Friday 3 June

Half term