



NOTTINGHAM GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

Experts in educating girls from 4-18 years

Leading. Learning. Loving it.

INSIGHT

December 2015 Issue 43

Dear Parents, Girls and Friends of NGHS

As we reach the end of the autumn term and look forward to a well-deserved Christmas break, it's lovely to look back at just how many great trips, performances and activities we have packed in over the past couple of months.

The October half-term break was busy with a group of girls out on a Languages trip to El Puerto de Santa Maria where they learnt lots about Spanish culture, and indulged in tapas as well as having a go at Flamenco dancing and a trip to the beach. The girls stayed with host families who made them very welcome and whose children still keep in touch.



A small team of girls and staff members set off on the C2C bike ride during the break, to raise money for charity. They succeeded in cycling 140 miles in three days from Whitehaven to Tynemouth camping along the way. They raised hundreds of pounds for the chosen charity of 'Toilet Twinning' which provides clean water and sanitation in parts of the world where this basic necessity is sadly lacking. A great effort and a great cause - well done everybody.



I must also mention the Year 6 and 7 Hockey tour to Holland which was a tremendous success and our first overseas trip including Junior girls - a wonderful experience for all of them.

Early in November we held a successful alumnae reunion event which was very well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by everybody. In this our 140th anniversary year, the archive images and displays were particularly significant and our guests loved looking at them. There was a delicious roast lunch served in the Dining Hall where our alumnae shared memories and laughter about their time at NGHS.



The festive season began with our traditional Michaelmas concert at St Peter's Church in the city centre. The girls performed beautifully entertaining the audience with a selection of seasonal songs and music after which everybody enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies.

It was lovely to see so many guests at our annual Christmas party for local senior citizens at the start of December. The Sixth Form girls excelled themselves



serving tea and cake and making everybody welcome with friendly chatter. The Junior, Senior and Flute choirs provided the entertainment and Santa made an appearance to distribute presents and even the odd kiss!



At the end of this term we have to say goodbye to Mr Dave Lumb who is taking retirement from the English and Creative Arts Faculty. Mr Lumb has been an invaluable and popular member of staff and has nurtured the girls' interests in English and their love of, and confidence in Drama over the years. We wish him well in the future.

Also, Mrs Davie, our Head of EYFS and teacher in the Junior School for 14 years, is leaving to further her career with a promoted post at another school. She has been instrumental in taking our EYFS from strength to strength and we wish her well in her new role.

Let me say "Bon Voyage" to staff and girls going out on the ski trip to Italy over the Christmas period. I'm sure they will all have a fabulous time on the slopes and will enjoy greeting the new year together overseas.

Finally I would like to thank you for completing the annual whole school survey. Overall 386 parents and 425 girls responded, providing valuable feedback on all aspects of school life. It was pleasing to see that 98% of Junior parents and 95% of Senior parents are happy with NGHS.

We strive to continuously improve that home/school communication and our response to last year's survey has been positive: parents like the continuity of tutor from Year 8 - 11 and being able to email the tutor directly. More parental seminars have been offered to inform parents at Junior and Senior level. In response to your comments, the areas we want to work on this year are:

- making the website more user friendly and informative
- organising more social and sporting events
- introducing the use of our Firefly VLE for parents to aid communication.



Other areas we have responded to already are:

- parental control of iPads
- revision strategies for Year 11
- developing the use of Twitter and Facebook to provide up to date information of school events.

We would encourage you to follow us on Twitter or our Facebook page as you can see an array of activities from the Junior School Football Club to the Upper School Debating Society to Diversity week and Physics Club.

FriendsofNGHS

@NottmGirlsHigh



We are always looking to develop our outdoor learning provision, led by Jen Lynn, our Head of Outdoor Learning, so exciting events are planned next term to make the most of our outdoor learning environment. Our School Council will also be consulted about: catering, rewards and sanctions, Firefly and iPads for learning, volunteering and charity work. So we can respond quickly to ideas and suggestions from girls, we also have a Pupil Voice committee who can raise points directly with the Senior Leadership Team. Subject Leaders

and Heads of Section also carry out 'pupil voice' surveys to gain immediate feedback about learning in lessons and the tutor programme.

The survey was anonymous so we are unable to respond to any individual concerns through this medium. Do remember that we operate an 'open door' policy: you are able to book an appointment with Mrs Gorham or Miss Keller, or any other member of the Senior Leadership Team, between 7.30am and 5.00pm. Heads of Section / Phase Leaders and tutors can be contacted directly via email and you can contact Heads of Department for any subject specific concerns or queries.

Your feedback and comments are invaluable in helping us provide the very best service that we can, so I am always grateful to receive them.

With that, please accept my very best wishes for a restful Christmas break and a Happy New Year.

Susan M Gorham, Head

YEAR 12 STEM TRIP TO BAVARIA

Four Year 12 girls had a great opportunity to go on an Erasmus funded trip to Bavaria to gain knowledge and experience and a Level 3 Award in the Rational Use of Renewable Energy. Maria, Phoebe, Yeh-Chia and Sarah visited wind turbines and hydroelectrical power plants and made working solar cases that could be hooked up to chargers and speakers. The trip wasn't all work and no play though - the girls also visited Munich and the Deutsch Museum and also Neuschwanstein Castle. What a great experience to promote careers in STEM.



GCSE DRAMA

Year 10 Drama students performed four exam pieces on the theme of 'Villains' to parents in November and did a suitably menacing job. The following week Year 11 performed their pieces derived from the theme 'From Nottingham', they had written some very dramatic sketches. Well done girls.



YEAR 7 STEM CHALLENGE

On Wednesday 25 November, as part of DT week, Year 7 girls took part in a STEM challenge during which they had to plan, design and build a working mousetrap! The girls could choose and buy items from the 'shop' and then work on their designs before testing them as all the other groups watched. It was a great lesson in teamwork and planning and all of the girls did really well creating some excellent mousetraps, showing off their skill in STEM subjects. The overall winners were Group 7 with their device called 'Free the Mouse'!





NSPCC

A culmination of events around the school raised £1,000 for the NSPCC. Based around the theme of Alice in Wonderland and combined with The Big Draw, girls posed with props that had been created in the Art Department. At the end of the week there was a coffee morning at which Junior girls dressed up as Alice characters and sold cakes with the help of some of the Sixth Formers. Everybody had a great time and later in November, a cheque was presented to Jenny Farr MBE, alumna of the school and President of the Nottingham branch of the NSPCC, who was thrilled to be a part of such a great fundraising event.

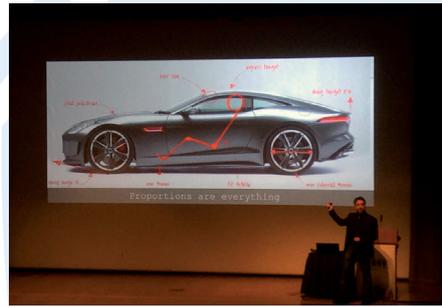


DT WEEK

During DT week in November, girls enjoyed a variety of trips, one of which was attending lectures at the London Institute of Education where they learnt a lot about product design, including that of Jaguar cars which tied in nicely with a later visit to the Jaguar car factory. Food Technology students went to Harrods Food Halls and Whitecross Street Market where they learnt a number of things about pricing, displaying foods, distribution of goods and consumerism. The week culminated



in a trip to the BBC Good Food Show at the NEC in Birmingham at which girls visited a number of different food companies and watched the Hairy Bikers doing a cookery demonstration.

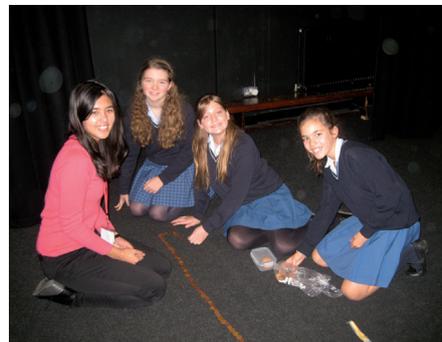


CHILDREN IN NEED

The whole school got involved in the annual Children in Need charity event and had lots of fun as well as raising lots of money. Luxton were the winners of the House penny trail at break, and the Houses have Talent show at lunchtime



was the usual mix of music, song and dance. At the Infant and Juniors, Year 6 girls and their EYFS reading partners sold cakes to their friends and dropped contributions of money onto the giant Pudsey Bear, and everybody was dressed in spotty accessories. It was a great day and a great way of making money for those in need.



YEAR 10 ART TRIP TO ELIZABETH FRINK EXHIBITION

Year 10 girls visited the Elizabeth Frink exhibition at Nottingham's Lakeside gallery. Frink is a highly acclaimed sculptor and this was one of the first exhibitions of a big collection of her work.

The girls learnt information about Frink from Ruth Lewis-Jones, Lakeside's Education Officer, and then spent some time photographing and drawing the sculptures. It was a really enjoyable and valuable day. The girls all worked really hard and produced some fantastic work.



CHRISTMAS BUSKERS

Mr Rolfe and the NGHS buskers took themselves off to the Victoria Centre in Nottingham to entertain shoppers and raise money for charity. They played and sang a variety of festive numbers to help ease the task of Christmas shopping and raise a smile from passers by, as well as raising lots of money. They were a great success and attracted many admirers and lots of applause for their brilliant performances - well done girls!



GDST APP DESIGN CHALLENGE

Congratulations to Elena Falcone and Adiane Opare-Anim in Year 10 who made it through to the final of the first GDST App Design Challenge. The girls presented their ideas to a distinguished panel of educators and innovators in the prestigious surroundings of the BT Tower in central London. Their design targeted young people with user friendly software, to help calculate individual BMI and promote health and wellbeing, with a daily calorie guide. Great work girls, well done.



BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE DAY

We were delighted to welcome Year 5 and 6 children from sixteen local primary schools to our Business and Enterprise outreach day.

They were tasked with helping Santa to make toys for Christmas, right through from discussing and designing their toy, buying the required materials from the elf-staffed shops, building their designs and creating packaging too. The children were brilliant, embracing their tasks with enthusiasm and creativity. The resulting toys were amazing - everybody did a fantastic job and had a lot of fun, and all were presented with participation certificates. At the end of the day the children were asked to work on an advertising jingle for their products which would be assessed by our outreach team back at their own schools at a later date.

This was a hugely successful outreach event enjoyed by everybody who took part.



MUSIC HALL CELEBRATION

To celebrate our 140th anniversary year in appropriate fashion, our Christmas concert this year was performed in the style of 'The Good Old Days' with music, song, dance and comedy as it would have been performed in the Music Halls of the past. The show was a great success and all of the girls (and staff) did a superb job of capturing that 'old time' atmosphere and enthralled their audience with their splendiferous talent.



NGHS CELEBRATES 140 YEARS PIONEERING GIRLS' EDUCATION

SOLID FOUNDATIONS

Nottingham Girls' High School is marking its 140th anniversary, celebrating its impressive history and promising future. A year of festivities is planned which began with the school's annual Celebration and Awards Evening at Nottingham's Albert Hall, an event which recognised the incredible academic achievements, sporting success and community service of its GCSE and A Level students.



Before the 1870s, when the school was established on Oxford Street, schooling for girls was predominantly fixed by social class and there were limited opportunities for working class girls to receive an education past their primary school years. In 1871, Maria Grey, an educationalist and writer, proposed the creation of a national movement which would promote women's education, demanding that girls should have access to schools that would be places "not only of instruction but of education in the full sense of the word".



The proposal led to the formation of what is now The Girls' Day School Trust (GDST), the UK's leading network of 24 independent girls' schools and two academies across the UK. Nottingham Girls' High School was the sixth of these schools to be founded in 1875, with just 34 students. Now, it has a student body of over 900, the largest in the GDST, and is Nottingham's only independent day school for girls aged from four to 18.



PIONEERING HERITAGE

Searching through the archives, the school's history is peppered with moments that broke with tradition and the stereotypes of the times, paving the way for girls to gain greater equality with their male counterparts.

In 1881 the school established a football club for its students which provoked much debate about its suitability. Some felt that football was 'too dangerous for young girls' and frowned on them 'imitating the pursuits of men'. The school stood by its decision however and the football club remained a popular activity amongst its students.



In 1888, a gymnasium was built after students petitioned for the same standard of physical education as boys, publishing this excerpt in a school newspaper: "It has been allowed at length that a girl may distinguish herself in Mathematics as well as a boy... but it is not yet allowed that rowing is as fit and proper an exercise for a woman... but women can row and girls ought to have gymnastics".

Strides were also taken in the sciences. The first purpose built laboratory was constructed at the school in 1899, with chemical working benches to accommodate nearly 30 pupils, a fume cupboard, a muffle furnace and "all that the scientific heart can desire". Student Mary Browning, eventually went on to become the first woman in England to obtain a Doctorate in Physics at London University in 1922.

With the outbreak of World War I in 1914 inevitably meant that school activities gave way to war work of various kinds. The school staff also

dedicated their service to the war effort, including French Mistress, Miss Margaret McFie, who lent her service in 1915. Margaret spent the war years at St Dunstan's, and then in Serbia, Corsica and Bizerta - she was one of very few women to be decorated with the Order of the White Eagle, a wartime merit for her work in Serbia.



In 1922 the school opened its doors to girls from state primary schools in the form of scholarships. At the same time, it introduced a mandatory school uniform so that there could be no distinction of wealth amongst students.

The threat of war in September 1939 meant the school, which had been commandeered by the Army, needed to relocate from its home in Arboretum Street to emergency accommodation in Ramsdale Park. The war years form a distinct chapter in the school history. With quite extraordinary speed the school adapted to its new way of life.

The Education Act of 1944 marks an important landmark in the history of the school. The Junior School with its 22 sister GDST schools was still recognised for Direct Grant and eventually, the three local authorities funded 50% of the total number of places. The O Level, which replaced the old School Certificate, led to greater flexibility in Sixth Form courses and the enormously increased grant for further education and the number of State Scholarships had a big impact on senior students.



In 1945, the School's seventieth birthday was celebrated with a series of parties and the performance of the staff play 'The Rose and the Ring'.



In 1975 the school launched its Centenary Appeal to mark its 100th anniversary. The aim was to raise £150,000 for bursaries to be awarded to girls based on academic merit and their financial need. The amount was reached within the year, and by 1978 the Appeal had amassed over £163,000 - helping 16 local girls to secure a place at the school which otherwise wouldn't have been available to them. The bursary programme is still in place at the school today, and has supported dozens of students over the years.



FUTURE OPPORTUNITY

140 years on, with Head Sue Gorham at the helm, Nottingham Girls' High School encourages the same enterprising spirit and can-do attitude in its students, investing in innovative new facilities and breaking gender stereotypes wherever it can. Upnah Wood was created for students - a specialised outdoor learning area which features a climbing wall, low rope course and fire pit where the girls are taught bush craft and team building skills.



Construction also began in March on the school's £9m performing arts centre - The Squire Performing Arts

Centre (The SPACe). Once complete in 2016 the state-of-the-art building has been purposefully designed to widen access to the arts and for developing community led projects.

As well as performance facilities for the whole community, The SPACe will be used to give Nottingham Girls' High School students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience, learning the skills of professional theatre technicians such as lighting, sound recording, box office and back stage.



With a firm foothold in the city, a passionate ethos at its heart of providing dedicated girls education, and a long history demonstrating the opportunities it can provide for girls across Nottingham, the next 140 years look set to be as promising as the last.

INSPIRATIONAL ALUMNAE

As a GDST school, students at Nottingham Girls' High School have access to an established network of over 65,000 female role models to tap in to opportunities and share expertise. Notable GDST Alumnae include recognisable figures such as Mary Berry, Dr Miriam Stoppard and Emma Bridgewater.

Former students of Nottingham Girls' High School include figures such as Dame Stella Rimington - who attended the school between 1946 - 1953. Dame Stella joined MI5 in 1969, working in a number of roles including counter-subversion and counter-terrorism, before becoming the first woman ever to be promoted to the rank of Director General in 1992.

Under her management, the Service led the fight against Irish republican terrorism and a policy of greater public openness was established. Since retiring from MI5 in 1996, Dame Stella became a best-selling author and has published a number of novels set in the world of intelligence and counter-terrorism.

Rosemary Squire OBE, a Nottingham Girls' High School student between 1967 and 1974, developed a passion for the



arts at school and went on to co-found the Ambassador Theatre Group (ATG), the world's number one live-theatre group. ATG has 45 venues in Britain, the USA and Australia, and is recognised as one of the most prolific international theatre producers.

Awarded an OBE in 2007 for Services to Theatre, Rosemary made history in 2014 by becoming the first woman ever to win the UK EY Entrepreneur of the Year award. Alongside her husband Sir Howard Panter, Rosemary has topped The Stage 100, a list of the most influential people working in theatre and the performing arts, for six consecutive record-breaking years.



Alexandra King who left the school in 2004 is a television producer and reporter at United Nations Television in New York. Her stories are broadcast worldwide to hundreds of media outlets including BBC World, CNN International, and MTV.

Alexandra gathers UN stories and raw footage from the front lines of global conflict and crisis and delivers unbiased



news coverage of them. In her career Alexandra has covered the crises in Libya and Syria, the conflict in Darfur and the humanitarian response to the tsunami in Japan, as well as interviewing Stevie Wonder, Gordon Brown and Bill Clinton.

Most recently, Alex became the first female video producer to accompany a UN General Secretary, which she did during a tour of Mozambique, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Uganda and Ethiopia.



TODAY

Today, Nottingham Girls' High School is the top school in Nottinghamshire for GCSE and A Level results. It continues to support girls through its successful Bursary Scheme, enabling bright girls to receive the best education possible; continuing what Maria Grey set out to achieve in 1871. Through its outreach programmes the school maintains its strong relationships with the local community, charities, businesses and schools - engaging with over 40 local Primary Schools in project-led activity days. Last year alone, its Sixth Form students logged over 5,000 hours of volunteer work and the school raised almost £15,000 for 17 local charities.



JUNIOR SCHOOL

As we reach the end of the autumn term I would like to say what an absolute pleasure it has been to be part of the incredible hub of energy, fun, enthusiasm and creativity that is the Infant and Junior School. From the youngest girls gaining confidence in every new lesson learned, to the older girls blossoming and embracing any challenges that come their way - all have been amazing. The array of talent in the many and varied performances this term has been outstanding as I'm sure you'll all agree. Girls have enjoyed well-deserved successes in all kinds of competitions from chess to cross-country, they have raised lots of money for charity with delicious cake sales, and they have relished assorted trips to enhance their learning experiences. All in all it's been a wonderful all singing, all dancing kind of term and as it comes to a close I'd like to thank you all for your continued support, and wish you all a very happy and restful break.

With best wishes

Miss Julie Keller, Acting Executive Head of the Junior School

YEAR 5 TRIP TO THE BRADFORD MEDIA MUSEUM

On 6 November Year 5 girls went on an exciting trip to the National Media Museum in Bradford and they loved it! The girls learnt all about how TV, film and IT have changed our lives since the 1950s, but their favourite part was learning about, and taking part in IMAX technology.



JUNIOR CHESS

Congratulations to the Junior Chess Team for another resounding victory in the Nottingham East League making them winners for the autumn term. Also, an impressive team of 29 girls from Years 3 to 6 played in the first stage of the Nottingham Girls' Chess League in November. This was a great learning experience for the younger

girls particularly. Overall, the team came joint first with Abbey Road from West Bridgford. Well done, girls - those strategy meetings on Friday lunchtimes are really paying off!



WINTER LIGHTS

Junior School girls put on a spectacular Winter Lights concert in front of an audience of delighted parents and guests. The Senior Hall looked amazing, very fitting for this fabulous festive performance. Girls had been practising their music and singing with the help of Mr Rolfe, and they were pitch perfect by the night of the show. Well done to everybody concerned. There is some amazing talent making its way up from the Junior School.



YEAR 3 VICTORIAN MUSIC HALL

Year 3 girls put on a splendid Victorian Music Hall performance which was a fun and colourful treat for parents and guests. Everybody did a marvellous job of their act but the highlight was probably the can-can which was spectacular!

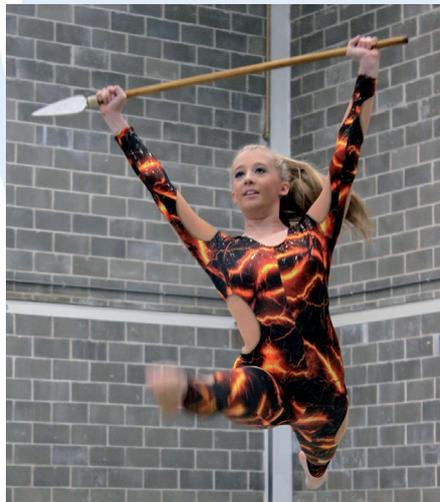


TRACY QUAIFE DANCE SHOW

Girls from each Year group enchanted parents with delightful ballet performances with dance teacher Tracy Quaife leading the way. They performed



not only ballet numbers but some funky street dance too. They were absolutely brilliant and everybody loved watching their confident performances. The girls and the audience were also treated to an amazing and accomplished routine by Georgia Sail in Year 12 who demonstrated just how much could be achieved with practice and dedication.



INFANT AND KS1 NATIVITIES

Reception girls enchanted everybody with their adorable nativity. They all did really well to remember their words and dance moves and put on a delightful show.



Girls from Years 1 and 2 also performed their nativity 'A Midwife Crisis' over two afternoons to a thrilled audience. They did a great job of acting out the story of the midwife rushing to find the place where the baby Jesus would be born. There were some wonderful comical characters in this production and the donkeys were a big hit!



WINDBLOWERS CUP

Junior girls worked really hard and put in some amazing performances during this year's Windblowers Cup competition. The standard was high, judging was hard, but these were the eventual winners:

Jasmine Price - Harp
Jaime Sterling - Voice
Millie Davys - Piano
Phoebe Fielding - Flute



JUNIOR CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to both the U9 and U11 Cross Country teams who achieved fantastic results with Phoebe Forward coming 1st and Nancy Penn 2nd in the U9 race, and the team coming 2nd overall. The U11 team also did us proud with good results amongst a very strong field, many of which were considerably older than our team. Over 300 children were competing and it was fantastic that so many parents came to Highfields to support us.



HOCKEY TOUR TO HOLLAND

The Year 6 and 7 Hockey teams had a fantastic start to their half term holidays with a short break over to Holland to experience the Dutch style of hockey. They played four different clubs in The Hague and Rotterdam, where an excellent standard of hockey is played. No wins unfortunately but some great performances, both individually and as



a team. The girls were very fortunate to receive a professional coaching session at Rotterdam Hockey Club and also managed to sneak a look at a professional men's match. A great time was had by all, with many fun events along the way... barbecues, pizza nights, fun at the beach, singing, awards and legendary games of B.I.N.G.O!!!! We are already looking forward to next year's trip!

SENIOR SPORT

CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to the Year 7 girls who came 1st in the Nottinghamshire Cross Country League Finals on a very wet and muddy December weekend, making them League Champions! Well done also to Olivia Hooper in Year 8 who was third in the individual category, and the Year 8 and 9 team who were third overall.



BADMINTON

Well done to Year 10 and 11 who became City runners up in Badminton. Well played girls.



HOCKEY

The U14 and U16 teams did well against tough opposition at the zone finals.



NETBALL

Runners up in the U14 County Netball.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 6 January

Spring term starts

Thursday 7 January

Year 9 RS trip to Beth Shalom

Thursday 14 January

Year 6 informal concert, Junior Hall, 2.30pm

Saturday 16 January

Senior School entrance examination and Sixth Form scholarship examination

Wednesday 20 January

Year 9 Options Evening, 5.00pm

Thursday 21 - Sunday 24 January

Year 12 and 13 Physics trip to CERN

Tuesday 26 January

UCAS evening, Senior Hall, 7.00pm

Wednesday 3, Thursday 4 and Friday 5 February

Senior drama performance, Snow Queen, Senior Hall, 7.00pm

Thursday 4 February

Year 11 English trip

Monday 8 February

Year 12 and 13 Art trip

Tuesday 9 February

Years 3 to 6 Orchestral Works, Senior Hall, 6.00pm

Wednesday 10 February

Rising Stars concert, Senior Hall, 7.00pm

Friday 12 February

Years 10 and 11 Latin trip
Non-uniform day