



# NUSA NEWS

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## In This Issue:

- First Story
- Coca Cola Corporate Catering
- NUSA Stars Scoop Prestigious Awards
- Bilborough GEMS
- Game On at NUSA
- Green's Windmill Trip
- Festive Fund-Raising AND MORE

December 2013

## From the Head of School

Dear pupils, parents, carers and members of our community,

I am delighted to welcome you to the first edition of NUSA News! We will be publishing our newsletter every term, with the aim of keeping you up to date with some of the things that our pupils have been doing.

I would like to start by offering my sincere thanks to all of the pupils and staff here at NUSA, who have made me feel incredibly welcome since my start in November. It has certainly been a very busy start, and I hope that pupils can already see that the academy is changing for the better. There are more changes planned for 2014, and term will start on Wednesday 8th January with all pupils receiving a new timetable.

The last day of this term will be Friday 20th December. We will be finishing school at 12.20pm, although pupils are welcome to stay for lunch as normal. Friday will also be a non-uniform day, with donations going towards the Children in Need appeal.

Merry Christmas!

**Mark Watts**

*Head of School*

## First Story

Nottingham University Samworth Academy's (NUSA) 2013/14 cohort of budding First Story writers recently visited the third annual Young Writers' Festival. The festival again took place at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford on Thursday 19 September with 700 visitors from across the country attended this magical day of writing workshops, talks and performances.

Opening the Festival was poet Caroline Bird who spoke about writing as a 'gift' and introduced former First Story participants to the stage, where they shared their experiences. Amongst the speakers were NUSA's very own Samantha Rash and Georgia Robinson. The young writers participated in a range of workshops, from intimate writing sessions to energy-fuelled poetry slams.

It was overall, an amazing, thought-provoking and inspirational day, which will drive on this year's batch of writers to compete with the previous NUSA anthologies.



## NUSA Corporate Catering Causes a Fizz at Coca Cola Enterprises



Year 11 NUSA Hospitality Students created a culinary feast for one of our community partners, Coca Cola Enterprise at a recent national network meeting held at their offices in Nottingham. Having successfully hosted a 3 course corporate dinner for the CCE team in July, students were invited to produce a lunch for this VIP meeting in October. As part of their BTEC Hospitality course, students researched and devised a menu for a business lunch for 20 delegates and prepared this on the day for delivery to the offices for lunchtime service.

Helen King, teacher of Hospitality at NUSA stated, "This has been a tremendous experience for the pupils. I was very impressed how they all pulled together when under pressure to get everything ready and out on time. This has given the students confidence in the knowledge that they can prepare various meals, hot and cold. This experience will go on their portfolio as evidence of what they have achieved."

The menu consisted of handmade sandwich wraps, sage and onion sausage rolls, goats cheese and caramelised onion quiche, along with rich chocolate brownies and homemade strawberry cheesecake.

Jayne Haviland, Customer Logistics at Coca Cola Enterprises added, "The buffet supplied by the NUSA student team during the week was absolutely amazing!"

Students are always looking for alternate ways of gaining experience and evidence for their Hospitality portfolio. They eagerly await their next culinary challenge and the opportunity to cook up a storm at NUSA.

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## NUSA Stars Scoop Prestigious Awards

Congratulations to students Ally Robson and Amber Elliot who won their respective categories as Community and Environmental champions of the city at the Nottingham Post Student Awards for 2013. A significant achievement was also made by Zac Clarke, who made it as one of the top three finalists in the Science and Engineering category.

All finalists enjoyed a prestigious dinner ceremony hosted by Capital FM's Dino and Pete at the glamorous Park Plaza Hotel on Wednesday 27th November. They were accompanied by their family members, who were extremely proud of our young people.



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## Bilborough GEMS

Many congratulations to all twelve NUSA students, along with the long list of young people from across our local ward area, who were recipients of a 2013 Bilborough GEMS Award at a fantastic ceremony, hosted by Hadden Park High School in Bilborough. The GEMS Awards are given to children and young people who are nominated by their peers and wider community for a positive contribution made in the past year. Students may have acted as a role model, beat the odds or just consistently acted in the interests of the local area. We look forward to 2014 with high hopes that many more of our students will be recognised for their ongoing positive contributions to the Academy and local community.

## Game On at NUSA

On the 10th October NUSA's Minecraft Club received a visit from GameCity Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) and Minecraft EDU who delivered a presentation and games workshop to a packed room. The presentation included information about the GameCity Festival, links to digital literacy as well as discussions around career pathways in the games industry through Confetti Studios.

The workshop saw pupils work with Minecraft, City Planners and Confetti experts. The challenge was to model Nottingham City in Minecraft and make improvements to it. Some of the models created will be printed in 3D and exhibited at the GameCity 8 Festival.



Following the workshop four students won an invitation to attend a Bronze Arts Award in a week programme based at Confetti Studios during October half term and a behind the scenes look at the GameCity 8 Festival.

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## Students Knead Trips Like This

At the start of term Ms Temple's Hive class visited Green's Windmill. They had been learning about bread, finding out about the ingredients, the way it is baked, packaged and advertised.

On the visit to the windmill they saw grain growing outside and then saw it being milled into flour inside the mill. They even got the chance to bake their own bread in the mill's kitchen!

Green's Windmill has been milling flour in Nottingham since the 18th Century and is the family home of the famous mathematician, George Green. They have their own award winning grain, some of which was generously donated to NUSA for the Hive class to grow in school grounds.



## Festive Fund-Raising for NUSA Post 16 Students

NUSA Post 16 students working towards their Level 3 COPE (Certificate of Personal Effectiveness) qualification, arranged a cake stall to raise money for The Mango Tree Orphanage in Tanzania, Africa. Shane, Layla, Amber, Amanda and Phoebe raised in excess of £100 and organised everything from the initial concept to delivery. Julianne Christou, Neighbourhood Development Officer for Bilborough said, "I thought the students were enterprising and creative, and worked well as a team. Their stall looked lovely and they had a variety of goodies for people to enjoy."



## Year 11 Message

Our Year 11 students have been working extremely hard in the approach to Christmas, and the mock exams in January. I would just like to take the chance to congratulate all of our students who have been working so hard, and focusing so well in lessons. We hope that our students have a restful break, and that they remember to revise. They can access information about revision on the Year 11 page on the NUSA website.

We wish all Year 11s a Merry, restful and revision-filled Christmas.

**Mr K Milliner**  
Head of Year 11

## NUSA Autumn Holiday Provision 2013

During the two-week half term break, NUSA students took part in two different weeks of holiday provision activities.

The first week started out on a cold, damp October night as thirty-three brave NUSA students took to the streets in the historic market town of Newark-on-Trent. These toughest of souls dared to venture out on a guided tour around the towns oldest buildings. Local historian Ian Gillanders filled their heads and fed their imagination with stories of murder, betrayal, lost loves and times gone by. The trip to Newark was just the beginning of a week of holiday activities in which students looked into the concept of ghost stories ahead of Halloween. The following days involved a screening of the movie *The Woman in Black* starring Daniel Radcliffe, an adaptation of the 1983 horror novel of the same name by Susan Hill. Students also took part in several literacy-based workshops, these included students writing their own ghost stories and then recording them in the radio studio, before editing them with the aim of creating an audio book. The week was rounded off with a well deserved trip to Chessington World of Adventures, which provided plenty of spooks and chills of its own as the park celebrated its annual Halloween Hocus Pocus.



Artwork by Bethany Camfield (Year 8)

For the second week, fifteen students attended various workshops from Wednesday to Friday at NUSA with the aim of producing new material for use in this years Christmas performance. Mrs Tuck, NUSA's Coordinator of Creative Arts said, "The students were enthused and inspired by the work that Sophie did, producing work of a much higher standard than would be expected of them for their age."

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## Days Like This Can Really Stirrup Emotions

The Creative Arts department organised for twenty NUSA students to visit The Lowry in Salford, Manchester on the 21st November. A group of Year 9 students interested in pursuing their interest in Drama and Music at GCSE were selected to see The National Theatre's touring performance of War Horse. The show is based on Michael Morpurgo's novel and adapted by Nick Stafford for the stage.

War Horse takes the audience on an extraordinary journey from the fields of rural Devon to the trenches of First World War France. Filled with music and songs, it is a powerfully moving and imaginative drama that had those representing NUSA engaged from start to finish.



The students were amazed by the sheer talent and spectacle of live performance combined with puppetry from the award-winning Handspring Puppet Company. The behaviour of the students was impeccable and the opportunity has provided them with confidence in their decision to continue education in The Arts at NUSA."

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## New NUSA Website – [www.nusa.org.uk](http://www.nusa.org.uk)

Please take the time to check out NUSA's brand new website to keep yourself up to date with all the latest Academy news. Providing information about the Academy and the curriculum, attendance information, along with access to all of the homework set for students, copies of letters sent home and an up to date school calendar.

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## Twitter

Have you got a smart phone? If so, why not follow NUSA on Twitter. Constantly updated to provide you with an instant stream of the latest NUSA news.

