



NUSA NEWS

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In This Issue:

- Sculpting success with the Arts Award
- Showing up is going up!
- NUSA mean business
- Braving the Elements
- Can girls kick it? Yes they can!
- Tastes of Italy
- Year 11 Prom

AND MORE

July 2014

From the Head of School

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

Welcome to the final newsletter from NUSA for this academic year, and what a year it has been! It is my sincere hope that 2013-14 will be seen as a very important year in the history of our school, and that it will be remembered for our collective determination to succeed. There are of course many ways in which you can measure success, but our focus this year has had to be very narrow as we had such a short time to affect the examination results for Year 11. As we move forward into next academic year, I am determined that we will be able to increase the wider opportunities available to pupils, and that we will have more opportunities to celebrate their wider achievements.

I hope that you enjoy the glimpse into recent events offered within these pages. I would like to take this opportunity to pay particular thanks to all of those pupils and staff who did such a fantastic performance of The Wiz at the end of a very busy term. I hope you all have an enjoyable summer, and I look forward to seeing you in September.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Watts
Head of School

Sculpting success with the Arts Award

A small group of Year 8 Art students have been working with our artist in residence, Shamila Chady and Art department, once a fortnight, to develop and create a mural for display at the Academy. As part of this experience and because of the enthusiasm of the students involved, they were invited to join a trip as part of the FAB (Family Arts In Bilborough) project.

The visit to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, which is just over an hour's drive away from Nottingham, gave students the opportunity to look at many exciting sculptures, both indoors and outside. The park grounds are very impressive with lots of walks and beautiful views. Students were supported by NUSA staff and Shamila to complete their Bronze Arts Award, in which the students passed on their skills using clay and other materials to Year 6 students from Firbeck and Melbury Primary schools.



Showing up is going up!

Nottingham City are working together with schools across Nottingham to improve attendance across the city. From September, we will be taking a tough stance on attendance and we will be introducing penalty notices and fines for persistent absence, lateness to school and holidays taking during term time.

However, we are also praising good and improving attendance. A 'prize lottery' for 100% attendance has been held every two weeks to win vouchers for Victoria Centre. Regular draws take place fortnightly giving everyone the opportunity to take part. A number of pupils were also rewarded for good or improving attendance with a day at Colwick Adventure Park. This saw pupils taking part in camp craft, climbing walls and boating on the lake. The pupils were amazing and nothing fazed them! Tracy Aldridge, Leanne Fletcher and Matt Colbourne also took part the activities and enjoyed spending time with pupils away from school. We will be continuing rewarding pupils next year for good attendance.



This year has also seen the introduction of the Lord Mayor's Attendance Awards celebrating good attendance across Nottingham City Schools. The event started with a visit from a leading counsellor to congratulate and present all pupils who have achieved 100% attendance with a certificate. We were then invited to attend a 'photo shoot' at the Council House in the Market Square which was to be the front cover of an Evening Post supplement celebrating Nottingham City Schools, at which Callum Dawkins (Year 8) represented NUSA. The end celebration was a special rewards afternoon at the Council House presented by the Lord Mayor. We are pleased to announce that NUSA had 2 winners that afternoon. Rachel Sims (Year 9) won an outstanding achievement award for excellent attendance and Jak Smith (Year 7) won an award from the Young Carer's association.

NUSA mean business

Over an eight week period, a group of NUSA students have taken part in weekly 'Business in Focus' workshops run by IntoUniversity. The group of lucky students have listened to engaging talks from accomplished professionals from the workplace. Speakers have included those working for 'Blue Chip' companies, franchise holders and local entrepreneurs based in Nottingham. In addition to analysing business structures, pupils have been keen to gain a grasp of the ethics, which surround business ownership.

The sessions themselves have seen students participate in dynamic and interactive business challenges. The activities have given students an insight into the world of work, whilst also offering them new transferable skills, to increase their employability.



Braving the Elements

On Thursday 10th July, the Year 10 GCSE Geography class visited the Yorkshire coast. They left the sun behind in Nottingham and braved wind and rain at Flamborough Head. Despite the weather, all of the students got stuck into their fieldwork and enjoyed the chance to see this dramatic coastline. They visited Mableton Sands as a comparison and to admire the power of the waves before returning to sunny Nottinghamshire to dry out!

Mrs Mizen, teacher of Geography at NUSA stated; "This trip was very important for the class as it contributed the essential fieldwork element of the GCSE specification. It also allowed the class to see coastal landforms first hand and this experience will help them to remember and understand these features. This will ultimately help improvement their exam success."



Can girls kick it? Yes they can!

NUSA and Nottingham Forest FC have enjoyed a long and fruitful partnership in the past, as the main delivery partners on the National Citizenship Service programme. Furthermore, they have supported NUSA departments with bespoke projects. As trusted partners, it was an obvious choice for NUSA to team up with them once again for the launch of a female football programme.

Despite female football not having a great tradition at NUSA, the numbers attending sessions have been very encouraging. Many of the girls attending are participating in football for the first time and are progressing at a great rate. Nottingham Forest FC Girls Football Leader, Adrian Osbourne was keen to introduce football as a fun pastime and has been thrilled by the engagement across all age groups at NUSA.



As a special treat for the girls, Nottingham Forest FC have arranged a tour of the City Ground in recognition of the achievements of the NUSA. Following the tour, the next stage in the development of female football at NUSA is to introduce a competitive team for the 2014/15 season.

Tastes of Italy

Although 4th July is usually associated with the USA, our Year 7 and 8's in The Global Chef cooking club only had one country on their minds - Italia! This was because they'd been tasked with cooking an Italian meal for their families. Their Italian themed menu consisted of: pizza, rustic tomato and basil soup, cannelloni and tiramisu; a veritable feast! Relatives of the pupils were invited to attend the culinary event along with members of staff. Students were extremely proud to be able to cook for their relatives and did a fantastic job. Staff were impressed with the students' cooking skills and said the food was, "Bellissimo!"

Staying with the Italian theme; a group of Year 10's and 12's from the WJEC Hospitality course ventured into Nottingham city centre to dine at Jamie's Italian restaurant. Students tucked into dishes such as: tuna polpette, Italian nachos, crispy squid and chicken primavera. A true taste of Italy! This was a great experience for all involved and many thanks go to Ms Helen King for leading this extraordinary interest.



Miss King, who runs The Global Chef and co-ordinated the trip to Jamie's Italian said, "I was very impressed and proud of the commitment and dedication the students in The Global Chef demonstrated when cooking their meal. The students who attended the restaurant did the school proud and acted politely and respectfully throughout the day."

Year 11 Students Having a Ball

This year, we held the prom at the Crowne Plaza, Nottingham City Centre. It was the first time we had used this venue and we were delighted with their service.

When the students began to arrive in their limousines and sports cars, they looked like celebrities. They attracted lots of attention and looked fabulous in their suits and long ball dresses.

We were very fortunate to have a DJ from 97.5 KemetFM, he certainly knew how to fill the dance floor. The pupils enjoyed a three-course meal then danced the night away into the early hours.

This year was the biggest Prom we have ever held, pupils had worked so hard on their exams leading up to the event that it was finally time for them to celebrate, and that they did.

Ms Green, who organised the prom said. "Every year, just when I think it cannot get any better, it always does. The students as usual did us proud and will be sadly missed but they are always welcome back."



NUSA Retain the 2014 Samworth Cup

Despite there being a number of other activities on during the Summer term at NUSA, the PE Department still managed to form and enter a strong, full athletics team into the 2014 Samworth Cup. The day event took place at Berry Hill Athletics Club in Mansfield and Team NUSA made an early trip over to north of the city to defend our title against the Samworth Enterprise and Church Academies. There were many magnificent individual performances in the track and field events, particularly from Manoj Paynter, Ayden Wolmarans, Revarnelle James, Coden Duncan, Morgan Furnell and Sky Severn from the NUSA boys team, who won all the events they entered. After the final scores were counted, NUSA convincingly retained the Samworth Cup title, with all of the boys teams winning their age groups and all of the girls teams placing second in their age groups.



University Life

A group of Year 9 NUSA students completed an amazing end of year experience by taking part in the Nottingham Trent University 'Residential Summer School.' The programme provided students with the opportunity to experience university and student life by spending two days and one night at Nottingham Trent University.

Students took the opportunity to work with current NTU Student Ambassadors and find out more about life as a student. Activities included:

- Information about pathways to higher education
- Taster sessions in university subjects
- Social events
- A student life challenge and lots more.

NUSA students thrived with the independence university life offered and are now in a great position to consider their options within Higher Education.



The Sky's the Limit for NUSA

NUSA students joined over 140,000 visitors including Prince Charles at RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire to attend the largest military airshow in the world, the Royal International Air Tattoo on Sunday 13th July.

They were treated to a performance by many of aviation's finest demonstrator pilots, performing manoeuvres at the edge of what modern military aircraft are capable of. One of the standout aircraft was the Alenia C-27J Spartan, which although a large transport plane, performed several rolls and a full loop.

Some of the other weapons on show included the F18 Hornet, the F16 Fighting Falcon, the Eurofighter Typhoon and the Russian cold war fighter plane the F22 Fitter, which the planes Mr Benjamin worked with would have been pitted against during the early eighties.

The Red Arrows also made an appearance marking their 50th year. They were joined over the Cotswold countryside by the leaders of four other teams appearing at RIAT: the Breitling Jet Team (L-39 Albatros); Frece Tricolore (MB-339); Patrouille de France (Alpha Jet); and Patrouille Suisse (F-5E).

The Royal International Air Tattoo is a charity run by the Royal Air Force Charitable Trust, an organisation that funds many projects from providing ongoing care to injured Air Force personnel, to generating interest for the forces in young people.

Ten NUSA students attended the trip, with Year 10 student Ally Robson saying that "it was really fun and it was pretty good to see planes flying as well as seeing inside the plane we went in. It was also really cool to learn things about the planes." Cole Lakin, also a Year 10 student, was similarly enthusiastic, saying, "it was very busy and there were lots of aircraft to see. I personally found the Red Arrows really inspiring because they were all in sync, they took to the sky with perfection. Overall I thought the day was a great experience. We had the chance to meet lots of people, it was awesome and I enjoyed it a lot."



Animal Magic at the University of Nottingham

At the end of June, a few of our Year 8 students took part in a visit to the University of Nottingham School of Veterinary Medicine and Science. This was a great opportunity for the pupils, who spent time with the staff at the university, to learn about animal care and how we use animals.

They began the day learning about how to assess the health of a dog, using the university training dogs. Pupils were able to use stethoscopes to listen to the dogs' heartbeat, as well as using charts to assess weight. They then went on to learn about cows and sheep and were able to feed them: the animals were very gentle but the cows were eager to feed and happy to take control of the feeding buckets. Pupils were led to understand the products that we take from the animals.

Before the lunch break, students were allowed to visit the rabbit section that they had been keen to see, when they had passed the area earlier in the day.

The work has been followed up in lesson and letters of thanks to the university staff, who delivered the wonderful programme for the day, have been written. The pupils found the trip really enjoyable and have said that it was the best school trip that they have been on. A few students are now considering careers in animal care.

Head of English at NUSA, Miss Dixon said, "Trips are an important part of learning for our pupils, to develop their understanding of the world around them and how the skills they learn at school apply in real-life contexts. These opportunities are an invaluable asset to learning and we hope to create more in the future."



The Wiz wows at NUSA

Earlier this year, NUSA staff and students began rehearsing for Nottingham University Samworth Academy's first ever musical! 'The Wiz' is a retelling of the story of The Wonderful Wizard of Oz. The story follows Dorothy in her quest to return home to Kansas, but not before befriendng some interesting characters along the way. The audience embarks on a journey with Dorothy, Scarecrow, Lion and Tinman as they search for The Wiz; a powerful wizard who they believe can help them find their missing piece.



Producing a show that incorporated all three disciplines for the first time (drama, music and dance) would prove to be challenging but NUSA staff, students and members of the community have shown their support and we have received some phenomenal feedback on the quality of performance. Those students involved in the show have taken great pride in what they have achieved:

"An amazing experience that I will treasure forever, with many thanks to everyone who helped with the performance. We have all grown close in expressing our enjoyment of drama. I had a great time."
Phoebe Ackroyd (The Wiz)

"A phenomenal experience! It feels strange not going to rehearsals. I made lots of new friends and improved in acting skills and confidence." Bethany Richards (Dorothy)

"I enjoyed being a main character because of the responsibilities. I was nervous at first but I progressed and I gained more confidence!" Tilly Fletcher (Dorothy)

"A big, huge, dramatic family. Laughs, tears, stress and euphoria; the whole experience was amazing and I'm looking forward to next year!" Ciara Weir (Evillene)

"My experience was great because my confidence was boosted. I made new friends and got close to new people."
Megan Betts (Lord High Underling)

The NUSA Performing Arts staff have devoted their time to creating a polished and powerful production. Director and Teacher of Drama, Laura Johnson said, "the students that have taken part are a credit to the school, the staff and their families. They have been professional in their approach to rehearsals and I am incredibly proud of what we have all achieved together. This is the start of a tradition at NUSA that I hope will continue from year to year."

Term Dates 2014-15

The Autumn Term starts on Thursday 4th September for all pupils. There is a slight change in the times of the school day, with morning registration starting at 8:45am and the last lesson finishing at 3:15pm.

#NUSAonTwitter

If you're looking to keep an eye out for letters home to parents, documents uploaded on the website, attendance information, after school enrichment activities, the latest results from sporting events or could simply do with a quick reminder of important dates, why not sign up and follow NUSA on Twitter?



SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2014/15

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2014							OCTOBER 2014							NOVEMBER 2014						
Mon		1	8	15	22	29	Mon		6	13	20	27		Mon		3	10	17	24	
Tues		2	9	16	23	30	Tues		7	14	21	28		Tues		4	11	18	25	
Wed	27	3	10	17	24		Wed	1	8	15	22	29		Wed		5	12	19	26	
Thur	28	4	11	18	25		Thur	2	9	16	23	30		Thur		6	13	20	27	
Fri	29	5	12	19	26		Fri	3	10	17	24	31		Fri		7	14	21	28	
Sat	30	6	13	20	27		Sat	4	11	18	25			Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Sun	31	7	14	21	28		Sun	5	12	19	26			Sun	2	9	16	23	30	
DECEMBER 2014							JANUARY 2015							FEBRUARY 2015						
Mon	1	8	15	22	29		Mon		5	12	19	26		Mon		2	9	16	23	
Tues	2	9	16	23	30		Tues		6	13	20	27		Tues		3	10	17	24	
Wed	3	10	17	24	31		Wed		7	14	21	28		Wed		4	11	18	25	
Thur	4	11	18	25			Thur	1	8	15	22	29		Thur		5	12	19	26	
Fri	5	12	19	26			Fri	2	9	16	23	30		Fri		6	13	20	27	
Sat	6	13	20	27			Sat	3	10	17	24	31		Sat		7	14	21	28	
Sun	7	14	21	28			Sun	4	11	18	25			Sun	1	8	15	22		
MARCH 2015							APRIL 2015							MAY 2015						
Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		6	13	20	27		Mon		4	11	18	25	
Tues		3	10	17	24	31	Tues		7	14	21	28		Tues		5	12	19	26	
Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed	1	8	15	22	29		Wed		6	13	20	27	
Thur		5	12	19	26		Thur	2	9	16	23	30		Thur		7	14	21	28	
Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri	3	10	17	24			Fri	1	8	15	22	29	
Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat	4	11	18	25			Sat	2	9	16	23	30	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun	5	12	19	26			Sun	3	10	17	24	31	
JUNE 2015							JULY 2015							AUGUST 2015						
Mon	1	8	15	22	29		Mon		6	13	20	27		Mon		3	10	17	24	31
Tues	2	9	16	23	30		Tues		7	14	21	28		Tues		4	11	18	25	
Wed	3	10	17	24			Wed	1	8	15	22	29		Wed		5	12	19	26	
Thur	4	11	18	25			Thur	2	9	16	23	30		Thur		6	13	20	27	
Fri	5	12	19	26			Fri	3	10	17	24	31		Fri		7	14	21	28	
Sat	6	13	20	27			Sat	4	11	18	25			Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Sun	7	14	21	28			Sun	5	12	19	26			Sun	2	9	16	23	30	

Key	
	In school
	School holiday
	Public holiday
	INSET day

Catering Information for Year 6 Pupils Coming to NUSA

A few words about the catering facilities at NUSA, specifically aimed at the Year 6 pupils coming up into Year 7.

As you will have noticed during your transition days in June, we try to cater for most tastes and there are plenty of choices on a daily basis.

On the 'main meal' section of the counter you will find a daily changing main course together with a vegetarian alternative, as well as a dessert and a fruit salad alternative. Of course, some things in school you don't mess with and that means that Wednesday means 'Roast Day' and Friday means 'Fish Day'. By law(!) we are only allowed to use the deep fat fryer once a week and in my opinion fried chips taste better than oven chips, so the chips on Friday are "proper" chips! Examples of some of the main courses we've had on the menu since term started are: Cajun Chicken, Mince & Onion Pie, Madras Beef Curry, Pangasius Fillets in Szechuan Sauce, Smoked Haddock Fish Cakes, Sweet & Sour Chicken, Roast Topside, Roast Turkey and Roast Pork. Vegetarian dishes have included Mushroom Stroganoff, Stuffed Red Peppers, Vegetarian Lasagne and Quorn Balti. In line with our environmental and Eco-policy our suppliers are either local or regional where possible. Our fruit and vegetable supplier is local, most of our meat comes from a Derbyshire based butcher and the provenance of the meat is typically from within a thirty to thirty five mile radius of Nottingham. The poultry comes mainly from Lincolnshire and wherever possible our fish comes from sustainable sources.

I'd like to think that we don't serve 'typical' school meals at our Academy. We start from scratch every day and we don't skimp on either quality nor portion size. We don't buy ready-made sandwich fillings, we don't buy ready-made or frozen lasagnes and soup doesn't come out of a packet or a tin. I also personally have the hope that when our students leave the Academy that they do so with their palates as well as their minds enriched! I am sure that they will regularly see or taste food they've never had before but they should also know by now that they can always taste before they buy if they want to!

My aim at NUSA, is to do our catering equipment and facilities some justice by producing a great range of healthy, delicious and interesting food. However, getting rid of old favourites such as tuna/pasta pots and jacket potatoes just for the sake of change would be wrong so rest assured we will keep the popular choices unchanged where possible. The salad bar area has greatly improved (as has its popularity!) but the price for that was sacrificing some space allocated for the paninis, pizzas and jacket potatoes.

There is also the option to eat a free breakfast between 7.45 and 8.30 if you've run out of the house to catch the bus and skipped breakfast or if you just fancy a relaxed slice of toast or bowl of cereal before school.

We use a cashless catering system, where students add credit to their accounts which they then access at the restaurant using their finger prints. Accounts can be topped up by cheque, which they can deposit in the cheque box near the top-up machines on the ground floor, by cash (coins and notes) at one of three machine within the building or online. Parents can top up a student account online but we will let you know the ins and outs of how to top up in September. Cashless catering means that we do not accept cash at the tills at all and you can only buy food and drink when there is money in your account. The free school meal allowance is added to an account after mid-morning break and disappears after lunch if the allowance is left unused. You cannot accumulate free meal allowances.

Restaurant prices for the 2014-15 academic year will be confirmed and published on the schools website during the summer holiday.

Should you or your child have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you would like dietary advice or if you have any concerns at all regarding food or diet.... get in touch.