



NSFA Nicholson Trophy awarded to NUSA

The Nottinghamshire Schools Football Association (NSFA) Committee has awarded NUSA with its Nicholson Trophy. This is awarded each year to the Secondary School that in the opinion of Committee, has made the most effort to fulfil its commitment to the NSFA.

The Committee made the following observations about NUSA.

“Their commitment to schools’ football in the City is great and all their teachers have shown a lot of dedication to offer football to their pupils. Their pupils, from what I have seen have been very polite, showed great effort, even when losing by a few goals and still continued to keep their heads high. I think they have shown the true spirit of the game in the way they fulfilled fixtures, the performance through the season and sporting prowess and behaviour on and off the field.”



Red Nose Day

Prompted by the Student Council, pupils at NUSA led this year’s Comic Relief fundraising efforts by working together to make, bake, organise events, sell tickets and gather sponsorship.

There was also a special lunchtime screening of NUSA’s very own talent show. Ten hopefuls were filmed showcasing their various talents. This was then compiled into ‘NUSA’s got Talent’ where the rest of NUSA was asked to vote for the winning act. Staff and students at NUSA worked together and managed to raise a whopping total of £2,030.53!



Maths Challenge

In February a select group of Year 11 maths pupils took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. The Maths Challenge is an award run by the University of Leeds for the most able mathematicians in the country.

Ten NUSA pupils achieved these nationally recognised awards and of those 6 achieved Bronze awards; 2 achieved Silver awards and 2 pupils achieved Gold awards!

In addition one of our Gold award winning pupils scored highly enough to enter the next level of the competition, the ‘Pink Kangaroo’ which is for the top 5,500 pupils in the country. At this level she received a pass which earned her a place on the Maths Challenge Summer School.



Marlon Harewood Inspires

In May, Year 10 pupils were visited by guest speaker and ex-footballer, Marlon Harewood. Marlon started his career in the Nottingham Forest youth team, before joining West Ham United in 2003 and then Aston Villa in 2007. He spoke passionately about the importance of English in his career.

Students participated in a question and answer session in the lecture theatre and here are some of their thoughts:

“He was a well-spoken and confident speaker who wasn’t afraid to answer all our questions.” Dillon Sharpe

“Marlon has influenced us to try make good decisions about our learning and to work hard for what we want.” Jack Mawer

“He told us to never give up and be confident in ourselves, because we can be successful with hard work.” Jason Manson

The work of the NUSA Student Council

NUSA’s Student Council were newly elected in September. Candidates were asked to express interest in the role and ensure they had a member of staff that would back their nomination. They were then asked to write and deliver speeches to their year group who voted for the candidate who best represented them.

The Student Council at NUSA is formed around our ethos of ‘Working Hard and Being Kind’.

They work together with staff to bring about positive change within NUSA. This year the Student Council has worked on projects such as the New Citywide survey with the PSHE service, our NUSA equipment drive, developing the student stationary shop, fundraising events and incentives to raise punctuality.

The group also ran a mock general election to engage pupils in the democratic process. NUSA pupils voted 88% Labour and discussed the outcome in their tutor set time.

The NUSA Signing Choir

The Signing Choir have been learning lots of useful signs so they can support the increasing numbers of Deaf students who come to NUSA.

A few of the eight pupils involved have been signing since 2015 but most joined more recently.

The NUSA Sign Choir have performed such songs as ‘See You Again’ and ‘Gasoline’ for which the girls taught themselves American Sign Language. All songs are chosen by the performers.

The choir perform in the Year Base assemblies and all of the end of term assemblies will feature one or two songs.

Last year they were lucky enough to open the second Bilborough Christmas Festival with ‘Somewhere Only We Know’.

They meet every Friday lunchtime, and more often as the day of a performance nears.

One of our Year 11 pupils helps with the technical side during the performances.



Year 11 Literature Trips

The English department organised exciting trips this year. Year 11 pupils travelled to the Lyceum Theatre in Sheffield in February to watch a live performance of the GCSE play *Blood Brothers*. The pupils loved the show.

“It was an exhilarating show and we had a fantastic view of the stage,” remembers Niall Fletcher.

Earlier in the year, Year 11 went to *Poetry Live* in Nottingham, where they heard poets from the GCSE Literature anthology read and discuss their poems. This was a truly unique opportunity and gave the pupils a very memorable experience.

“Imtiaz Dharker was interesting and had a lovely voice,” reports Victoria Bird.

Peter Wright-Shepherd says “John Agard was really funny and spoke powerfully.”

At NUSA we’re already looking forward to our theatre trips next year.



International Gymnastics Success

One of our Year 9 pupils, Taeja, is celebrating fantastic sporting successes in the field of gymnastics.

In March she won the 2017 British Artistic Gymnastics Championships in the Junior Women’s division and she has recently been selected for the GB team for the European Youth Olympic Festivals in Hungary in July and the Junior International Festival in Germany.

Her other recent successes include:

- Participating in the 2016 European Women’s Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Bern, Switzerland where she contributed to Great Britain’s silver medal in the team competition
- Competing in the Magical Classical Competition in Florida where she came first all round
- Being the highest scorer in the Miss Quattro team competition
- Winning the English Championships overall and getting Gold on the bars, floor and vault

Taeja attends NUSA but trains in Birmingham which means she spends a lot of time on the road and she works very hard to perform well both in and out of school. We all wish our very modest sports star the very best of luck!



NCS Champion School

NUSA Year 11 students have this year jumped at the opportunity to take part in the National Citizen Service (NCS) programme, taking place in summer 2017.

An impressive 52 students have signed up to the programme, which is a marked increase from the ten participants who signed up last year. This proactive approach from the year group has delighted Mr Hamilton and Mr Ball, who have helped to promote the programme to the year group.

NUSA's NCS participants can look forward to developing new skills whilst undertaking worthwhile social action activities in their local community.

NCS includes challenging activities, away-from-home residential experiences and self-designed social action projects. It is a fantastic opportunity for young people from all backgrounds and ability levels to come together to build confidence, meet new people and to make a positive difference.

NCS have chosen to recognise NUSA's success in promoting the NCS programme by awarding the academy with 'Silver Champion School' status.



Spring into Science

In April the whole of Year 8 took a trip to the University of Nottingham for an exciting lecture hosted by the School of Physics and Astronomy.

They put on lots of demonstrations to get everyone excited about science and the pupils saw: sound vibrating, an invisible drum set being played, pupils being the keys of a piano and playing a tune and sound turning into lightning.

The afternoon ended with a panel of research Doctors answering questions on topics like black holes, dark matter and Trojan points. ITV were there filming and some pupils were interviewed. All the pupils went home with a goody bag which included some little experiments they could do to keep them hooked on science.



Year 13s get set to go to university

In Social Sciences our hard-working Year 13 pupils are currently preparing for life after NUSA by stepping in to the kitchen.

Our pupils tested their culinary skills to help them learn how to fend for themselves once they start living away at University. Based on the food tasting completed by Mr Hamilton, they'll be absolutely fine!

They will all soon have completed their qualification, which will help them get into some of the best Universities in the country and we wish them all the best of luck with their higher education!

