



NUSA NEWS

www.nusa.org.uk | info@nusa.org.uk

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April 2014

From the Head of School

Dear Reader,

I am delighted to welcome you to the Spring term edition of NUSA news. I can scarcely believe that another term is drawing to a close, and our attention is inevitably moving toward the examination season.

We have had a wide range of visitors to the academy this term, and I have been proud to take them around lessons and introduce them to our pupils. As we move into the final weeks before examinations start, it is vital that pupils from all years share the responsibility for maintaining a calm and focused atmosphere.

I wish our Year 11, 12 and 13 pupils and students the best of luck in their exams.

Mark Watts
Head of School

Capital Kids

On Friday 24th January 60 Year 9 students journeyed to London to visit the Houses of Parliament. After a visit to the National Portrait Gallery, the day in Parliament began with an awe-inspiring tour of the Palace of Westminster. Where students were lucky enough to see:

- The House of Commons or House of Lords chambers
- A visit to the public gallery to observe the MPs or Lords working
- Westminster Hall, the last remaining part of the original Palace
- Central Lobby, at the very heart of the Parliamentary Estate

After the tour, the students participated in a workshop that explored democracy, elections and voting. NUSA students created their own political parties and presented their plans for the country.

Finally, before leaving the Houses of Parliament, the students were lucky enough to be visited by the local MP for Nottingham North – Graham Allen, who talked to them about what life is like as Member of Parliament representing our school and community.



NTU Student Led Projects

During the winter term NUSA pupils have benefitted from taking part in some exciting projects in conjunction with Nottingham Trent University (NTU). NUSA already has an established relationship with the NTU Outreach team as they deliver numerous workshops to compliment subject areas. These new projects were a little different as this time activities were lead by the NTU students themselves.

Student Led Projects are a way for undergraduate students to use something they are passionate about to create a project and pass this passion on to other people. The two projects NUSA have successfully been a part of were:



Future Artists Nottingham

Future Artists Nottingham allowed NUSA pupils to experience a different type of art; a new way of working; different techniques and ultimately promoted to them the possibilities available to them if they were to pursue art in higher education. This screen printing project with Year 9 pupils involved two whole day sessions within the school. The quality of work produced by NUSA pupils was exceptional and the entire project gained glowing reviews from Art teacher Ms Layton. The pupils can be seen in action below:

Model United Nations

This project ran as a simulation of the 'United Nations' with a Year 9 English class, as pupils worked in teams to solve worldwide challenges. The Model UN developed teamwork, leadership and public speaking skills in the context of global problem-solving. A large final 'conference' was held at Nottingham Trent University's City site, which brought together all participating schools from within the city. This trip also gave NUSA pupils the opportunity to experience a tour of a number of NTU buildings.

Extra Time at NUSA

Enrichment activities continue to be well received at NUSA, with after school activities being offered five nights a week. Previously tried and tested clubs are still continuing to grow in popularity, with many students staying behind for everything from Chess, Trampolining and Football, to Table Tennis, Music Technology and Remote Control Cars.

New activities over the past few months include Dodgeball, Girls Football, Netball and Global Chef. The Global Chef club has seen students cooking foods of the world on a weekly basis. Students have so far been learning about Japanese and Italian cuisine, serving up dishes like sushi, pasta, homemade pizzas and exotic vegetables. Three former NUSA pupils, who are currently studying at Bilborough College, have ably supported the project. The girls have been delighted to give something back to NUSA, as a thank you for the positive experience they had during their time at the Academy.



Another new addition to the week is Get Reel, an after school film club ran in association with film education charity Into Film. Having decided upon a Superhero Season to start the club off, students have spent the six weeks from half-term up until Easter watching movies and writing reviews, which they then post online on the Into Film website:

"I thought this movie was good because it showed his life from the beginning instead of just starting from when he became Batman. I didn't like how the timeline jumped backwards and forwards during this film, it was easy to get lost." – Jake Harrison, Year 7

Mr Hamilton, NUSA's Enrichment Leader said, "Enrichment offers pupils the opportunity to develop social and cultural skills outside of the classroom environment. These enrichment offerings help NUSA to develop the whole pupil."

A copy of the current enrichment timetable is available online at www.nusa.org.uk.

NUSA's Great Debate

NUSA pupils can be an opinionated group of young people and this year pupils have had the opportunity to refine this attribute by taking part in a number of debating projects. The main project has been NUSA's enrolment within the Debate Mate programme. This programme has seen over twenty Year 8 & 9 students take part in a fifteen week debating programme run by top university debaters from the University of Nottingham.

The Debate Mate programme has seen NUSA compete in the Urban Debate League, which has been the platform whereby NUSA students have excelled (pictured below). NUSA have entered three teams in each competition and have recorded many victories, however, the most pleasing point has been the personal development of the pupils, which has been evident at these events. The programme will conclude at the end of April, with NUSA visiting the University of Nottingham for the inaugural Debate Mate Cup.



Hot on the heels of the Debate Mate programme are NUSA next generation of debaters from Year 7. These pupils took part in a short Access Debating programme. This programme successfully managed to introduce pupils to debating whilst also aiding the primary school transition process. The Access Debating programme saw NUSA students (pictured below) compete with local primary schools at the prestigious DICe Building and despite some wonderful competition; NUSA pupils finished as winners with some remarkable performances.

Students Take to the Airwaves

Students from the Academies radio project have been busy putting the skills they have learnt to good use.

Back in December, ten of our students spent the day in Newark being actively involved with a trial broadcast by Radio Newark. Having arrived at the studios in the morning for an introduction, the students made their way to the town centre, where they spent several hours interviewing local residents about the importance of Christmas, whilst promoting a "Shop Locally" scheme. Upon the presentation of a receipt to prove the gifts had been purchased locally, shoppers could have their presents wrapped for free by volunteers from Beaumont House Community Hospice, in a specially designed and printed Christmas wrapping paper. Whilst in the town centre, students had the chance to report back in to the studio throughout the day, discussing their findings live on air across the local area on 87.7fm.



In February, students were invited along to GEM 106 for a tour of their studios. GEM 106 Programme Director – Mike Newman, gave the students a 30-minute presentation, providing them with insight into the commercial side of the radio industry. Three students then put their interview skills to the test and recorded interviews with Mike, in an attempt to capture and podcast the information that they had learnt.

The students have been busy editing down their audio work form both trips. Students are posting their completed interviews and projects, which you can listen to on online via our SoundCloud account at www.soundcloud.com/nusa-radio.



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Students Relish a Challenge

Five Year 11 NUSA pupils and a small group of Nottingham University students were brought together by Nottingham City Homes. They were given the task of arranging and hosting an event to the theme of 'Healthy Eating on a Budget'. They cooked a healthy, low-cost lunch for 30 people for £5 per head. The aim was to equip NCH tenants with skills that will benefit their families and community.

The event took place at Cafe Aspire on Triumph Road on Saturday 22nd March.

The following pupils Aidan O'Neil, James Burns, Sandus Badeeb, Catherine Harper and Mitchell Brindley met up with the UoN students a few times at NUSA to help plan and prepare for the event.



On the actual day they help set tables, prepare meals and serve tables.

Helen King, teacher of Hospitality at NUSA stated, "This was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils. They worked extremely well with UoN students in delivering a great day. This has given them confidence to work with a variety of people from different ages and backgrounds. I was so proud of them all."

Table Tennis Talent

Table Tennis is an ever popular activity at NUSA with many pupils experiencing it for the first time at the academy. The Street is home to half a dozen table tennis tables, which are always popular at break times and lunch times for those pupils looking for a recreational game. For those pupils looking to excel a little further, NUSA provide after school coaching on a Monday and Thursday as part of the after school Enrichment programme. These sessions are supported by Sycamore Table Tennis Club who provide expert coaching and support for NUSA pupils.

The popularity of Table Tennis at NUSA has led to many NUSA pupils representing the academy in competitions in previous years. The highlight of the winter term was the Nottingham Schools Table Tennis Open on Thursday 6th February. Despite a potentially intimidating environment and a high level of opposition, the NUSA players raised their games to put in some remarkable performances. Credit goes to all the players who managed to secure progression from each of their respective groups. A specific mention should go to Charlie Cotton who won the plate completion and to Edward Blower who won a thrilling third and fourth place playoff match to come away with a bronze medal in the main event. Year 7 & 8 players are pictured above-right.



Easter – Open All Hours

Even though traditional school-day lessons take a break over the Easter holidays, NUSA will still be a busy place during this time. Key Stage 3 students have been offered the chance to be involved in four days of holiday provision activities from the 14th – 17th April. Working alongside Coca-Cola Enterprises, Nottingham and Alton Towers, students will spend three days completing tasks based around designing and marketing a fictional Coca-Cola rollercoaster. The week will end with an exciting day out with pupils taking on the thrills of the real white-knuckle rides at Alton Towers theme park.

Year 11 Revision sessions will be running over the Easter period from 9am until 3pm from Wednesday 9th April to Thursday 17th April. A full revision timetable can be found online at www.nusa.org.uk.

NUSA pupils stay on the right side of the law

During March a group of Year 8 NUSA pupils worked over two days with IntoUniversity staff and trained University of Nottingham volunteers on a Buddy Programme. Pupils developed subject knowledge, centred on the theme of Law in addition to learning more about university life.

On day one our pupils attended a morning workshop held on site at IntoUniversity, Nottingham West (pictured below). During this session pupils took part in a fascinating injury lawyer's workshop whereby they acted out scenarios and pitched a civil case to staff acting a county court judges. The session concluded with pupils taking part in a carousel of activities, focussing university life. Specific topics included budgeting, university myths and facts, an A-Z of courses and a look a university magazines.



During day two pupils were grouped with a trained student volunteer from University of Nottingham. Pupils also completed a tour of the campus and completed an investigation based on life at university. During the afternoon session pupils took part in workshops to find out more about studying Law at university. More specifically they were treated to a food labelling activity with university academic Richard Hyde. Furthermore, pupils were introduced to a recent Law graduate who pupils questioned regarding life after university and the challenges associated with gaining employment.

Overall the Buddy Programme provided an excellent opportunity for NUSA pupils to find out more about studying at a higher level and career paths afterwards. Meeting university students proved to be inspiring and the scheme offered the opportunity for NUSA pupils to think about how they can achieve their goals.

Sport Relief

Another successful fund raising event at NUSA was held on Friday 21st March for sports relief. All year groups had been shown a sports relief presentation in assembly and during mentor time, to ensure all students understood how the money being raised could help others less fortunate.

Students in Year 11 and Post 16 were involved in organising games, a raffle and a cake and sweet sale during break times as well as selling sports relief wrist bands to students.

All students completed their sports relief mile during their PE lessons throughout the week, with a few year 10 girls going the extra mile and completing it again during their lunchtime.

At lunchtime, a special one-off Teachers vs Year 11 basketball game was held. Students could pay to watch the game and all seats were taken. It was a hotly contested game but eventually, the teachers came out on top winning the game.

All students thoroughly immersed themselves in the day and helped raise over £200 for sports relief, this total will increase with a Sparty non-uniform day on Friday 4th April.



**SPORT
RELIEF**

Prom of 2014

Tickets are now available for this year's Year 11 Prom.

Taking place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Nottingham City Centre on Saturday 21st June from 7:30pm until 12:00am, students can now buy tickets from NUSA's reception, priced at £25.00 per person.

Tickets can be reserved for a small deposit.



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.

 @OfficialNUSA

Message to Year 11

Dear Year 11,

We are very proud of you. We understand the stress you are under, and the dedication that many of you are now showing to your studies. If you can keep up the hard work, you have the best of chances to do well. Please make sure you revise over Easter, and check if you should be in for additional revision sessions.

All the best,

Mr Milliner
Head of Year 11