



April 2018

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

I hope that this newsletter finds you all well rested after the Easter break. It is certainly a turning point in the year as the days get lighter and we start to experience a little more warmth, particularly after such recent icy conditions. A big thank you to all families for your support during the school closure due to the adverse weather conditions. It was not a situation we had ever anticipated being in the heart of a city.

We always seem to pack a great deal of work into each term, and the spring term was no exception. Our students have experienced so many enriching opportunities on top of their normal lessons. The annual year 7 residential to Walesby was a great success and the Big Sing competition saw some great performances with music group 7a being crowned the overall winners. Year 9 and 10 were able to visit a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) careers fair, some spent a day at Cambridge University and others visited an Apprenticeships Fair. Our three activity days at the end of the school year will also be focused on careers for all year 9 and 10 students; years 7 & 8 will experience a range of enrichment activities which take them 'around the world in 3 days'.

We are so pleased to see so many of our students grasp these opportunities to spend time thinking about their next steps. This term, we will be working with smaller focus groups to help plan our development into Post-16 education as we begin delivering A Levels in September 2019.

Mrs Waters in the Maths department left at Easter and I would like to pass on all of our thanks for her contribution to the school. We welcome Dr Whotton, in maths, who started with us after Easter.

The end of term culminated in our termly achievement assemblies for each year group. It is always a delight to see the many ways our students demonstrate our 'Work Hard Be Kind' motto on a daily basis. A great number of rewards were given for such a wide variety of reasons. A big well done for all involved and I look forward to many more opportunities to celebrate the fantastic efforts of our students during the summer term.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for all of your continued support for your children and the school – it is very much appreciated.

Mrs J Brown
Head of School

Trips and visits

Please note that the following trips/visits have been planned for the forthcoming year. We hope that this list helps you as Parents/Carers with financial planning. During the course of the year, other activities may be added to this, as we are sometimes offered opportunities that are too good to miss!

Year group	Activity	Dates	Approximate cost
7	Science and Geography Field Trip – Nottingham University Park	2 July 2018	£5 - transport
8	Walesby Scout Camp – 3 day/2 night residential	22-27 June 2018	£120
9/10	GCSE Music – Wicked at The Birmingham Hippodrome	26 April 2018	£38.40
10	GCSE PE trip to Loughborough University	8 May 2018	Approx. £15
9/10	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award – Training Weekend	12-13 May 2018	£198
9/10	GCSE Geography Field Trip to Hornsea	22 May 2018	Approx. £11
9/10	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award – Practice Expedition	7-8 July 2018	
9/10	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award – Qualifying Expedition	21-22 July 2018	
10	Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award – Training Weekend (only for those without Bronze Award)	12-13 May 2018	£250
10	Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award – Practice Expedition	6-8 July 2018	
10	Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award – Qualifying Expedition	20-22 July 2018	

Curriculum News

Art

In Art this term, Year 7 have started their new topic 'Creative Colour'; they have learnt about colour theory and created some lovely paintings in response to the work of Michael Craig-Martin. Year 8 are learning about pattern and the use of pattern in industry and how cultures can help influence modern day designs. They are now starting their silk painting designs which will help develop their fine painting skills.

During this summer term we will be preparing for our 'Big Art Exhibition', work is already being picked out from the wonderful creations of year 7 and 8 and of course all our fantastic year 9 and 10 GCSE students will be showcasing their amazing coursework. Details of the exhibition to follow - watch this space!

Drama

All GCSE Drama students have been working very hard on their devising skills over the last term in preparation for their assessment in June. Year 10 also enjoyed a performance of Jekyll and Hyde at the Theatre Royal in Nottingham. This trip will support the students in their preparation for Section C of the written exam paper.

In KS3, year 7 and 8 students have been perfecting their theatrical skills and learning subject specific terminology. All students have participated well in practical tasks this term showing great development in their performance skills. Well done everyone and keep up the hard work!

English

We had a busy spring term in English, especially with challenging ourselves with reading. As well as continuing with the exam texts, such as Lord of the Flies and Macbeth, the students are also completing lots of their own reading in D.E.A.R (Drop Everything and Read). Classes are currently reading either The Knife of Never Letting Go, a thrilling dystopian novel by the incredible Patrick Ness or the moving, heart-warming Wonder by R.J. Palacio. In addition, many students are completing the Accelerated Reader quizzes which allow them to see how well they know the book they have just read. It also tells them when they have read a million words and become a word millionaire.

This term, we would like to see even more students challenging themselves by reading different genres and by pushing themselves to attempt slightly harder books so they can improve their vocabulary and broaden their minds. We will be recommending books to them and helping them to break out of their reading comfort zones.

Humanities

We are embracing active learning in Humanities this term. The first week started with the creation of biospheres in philosophy and ethics and ended with exploring rivers in geography outside on the MUGA pitch.

In philosophy and ethics year 9 are starting a topic on human rights and social justice. We built biospheres and tried to establish settlements in order to explore the idea that in any community there is a need for rights, responsibilities and rules. We also explored times where rules may impede upon human rights in order to sustain a community. How can we sustain human life without removing a person's freedom of choice to reproduce? How should food be produced and shared? What punishments should be given to people who break the law? It certainly made for some interesting discussion.

In geography year 7 have taken advantage of the good weather and have been outside to learn about the long course and work of a river in preparation for their summer assessment.

We are looking forward to more fun in the classroom over the coming weeks.

Mathematics

On the 21 March 4 pupils from year 8 competed in the group maths challenge at Ashfield school in Kirkby-in-Ashfield. The students (Alfie Doran, Dillan Duffus, Jaydon Rakkar and Finn Wreaves) performed brilliantly and came 10th in the region which is 17 places higher than NFS achieved last year. This is particularly impressive as the team only comprised of year 8 students when most of the other teams were comprised of two year 9 and two year 8 students.

The individual junior maths challenge is also being held this term (Thursday 26 April) and we are looking forward to seeing how well our mathematicians perform.

PSHCE

This term in PSHCE, year 7 have been learning about various mental health issues as well as developing their mindfulness skills; year 8 have been carefully considering their options and how these might lead to future careers. Year 10 have been preparing for the world of work leading up to their work experience and writing CVs in their PSHCE lessons, they even learnt about the importance of internet safety in the work place and how their behaviour online can have an effect on their careers.

The wonderful British Red Cross have been back again for the second year to teach our year 9s some very vital first aid skills. First students learnt about basic first aid such as treating burns and what to do in various situations. Then in the second half of the term students learnt about resuscitation and the recovery position-all vital skills.

Science

Last term our Year 7's were very lucky to participate in a Creative Conductors Workshop with the company, E.ON. This hands on workshop was definitely appreciated by our students and tied in with our curriculum topics energy conduction and circuits. The students combined their knowledge of energy concepts with Design & Technology and Engineering.

To celebrate British science week, many of our students went to the NEC Big Bang Fair in Birmingham. They had a fantastic day learning about the opportunities involved in studying Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. The theme for this year was exploration and discovery,

encouraging young people to think about everyday discoveries and how they affect their lives by exploring science in the world all around us; from their home and schools, to their local area and wider environment. The students did a great job representing the school and showed great interest in their future.

This term, some of our Year 8 students will be attending a Sound and Resonance workshop at Nottingham University. This workshop will involve the students partaking in exciting experiments helping to support the learning done inside the classroom.

Spanish

We have been working hard as always in the language department this term and many students are benefiting from a new way to memorise vocabulary using Quizlet.com. The links for each section of vocabulary to practise are on Insight each week and students can practise little and often - listening, spelling, matching and translating.

In year 7, students have been learning to talk about different foods they like, including making role plays; whilst year 8 have been learning about healthy living and the body. Year 9 have been working on the topic of social media and what makes a good friend and year 10 have been studying Spanish and Latin American festivals and traditions.

Furthermore, we have started a new enrichment opportunity for years 7 and 8 called "Exploring Europe". During the session we are going to find out about the breadth of European cultures, music, geography, languages and have promised plenty of food tasting along the way.

Sadly, this year's Spanish trip to Castellón was cancelled due to a one-day strike by French air traffic control. Both year 9 students and staff were so disappointed by this uncontrollable event. We are busy getting refunds sorted and reorganising the trip for the future. Here's hoping for better luck for our next visit!

School Show – Schools Will Rock You!

Rehearsals are well underway for the Nottingham Free School's first summer musical "School's Will Rock You" featuring a selection of Queen's greatest hits and honouring the great musicians of Rock n Roll. The show will run on **Thursday 19 July 2018** and will showcase the amazing talent, here at NFS. Furthermore there will be a sneak preview of the show on Wednesday 25 April at the Spring Concert. Tickets for the main show will soon be available to purchase from our school reception, so watch this space for updates!

'Schools Will Rock You' is set in a dystopian future, where robotic teens known as Ga Ga kids are brainwashed into listening to the sound of synthesised pop, issued by Global-soft Corporations and ruled under the power of Killer Queen and her army. However unfortunately for rebel teen; Galileo this is not the life for him, he longs to hear real music and he will not stop the fight until he finds it. The musical features Queen's greatest hits such as Radio Ga Ga, One Vision and I Want to Break Free, this is the one show that is bound to get you dancing along to the sound of the beat.

Post 16 (P16)

Staff have been busy planning the future development of our Post 16 (P16) provision for September 2019 when we will be delivering A Level courses. Year 9 & 10 students have had an initial workshop to get them thinking about their future options after year 11 and we will be holding smaller focus groups this term. During these they will consider the wider elements of P16 study as this time is key for students to get a rich diet of skills and qualifications that are essential for university and job applications. Many of our staff have a strong background in teaching A Levels and supporting and we are really excited to be planning an excellent provision designed to support students into the world of university, higher level apprenticeships and employment. More details will be available to parents in the forthcoming months and during our P16 open evening to be held in Autumn 2018.

School Link Programme

Our school link in China starts with a visit from our sister school in Ningbo. Twenty five Chinese students and their teachers will be spending a school week with us from 2 July 2018 to experience life in an English school. A return visit for a group of our students is provisionally planned for April 2019 – a meeting was held on Tuesday 17 April for any interested students and parents. If you missed this and would like further details, please contact the school office on contact@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk

Careers

Work experience: Year 10 are set to embark on their week of work experience on 14 May and have begun their preparation in earnest. We're really looking forward to visiting as many of them as possible in their work placement and finding out what skills and experiences they've gained from the world of work. We'd also like to say a big thank you to Mrs Barrett who has worked so hard to secure so many placements for our students. It's a real privilege for our students especially when so many schools have stopped offering this experience – we are really appreciative of all that she has done and of course the support offered by all of the employers.

Payments in school

School Trips

Please be aware that all payments to school should now be through the iPay system or by cheque. Only in extreme circumstances should cash be paid into the school office. If that is the case then all money should be in a clearly labelled envelope and can only be handed to one of our finance officers: Mrs Wayne or Mrs Khan, at the start of the day (Before 8.15am) and at break time (10.45 – 11am). A receipt will always be issued and this is your proof of a cash payment. A copy of all receipts will be kept in school. If you are on a payment plan, then your child will be given a payment record card on which all payments will be recorded.

School Dinners

Please remember that it is the parent(s)/carer(s) responsibility to ensure that their child has enough money on their account to purchase a school meal. If a student does not have enough money then the following process occurs:

- Their meal is held back at the counter and they are asked to go to reception to phone home.
- The student phones home at reception to remind their parent/carer to top up their account.
- The student is given a blue slip which they can exchange for their meal back at the counter.
- At the end of every week, any account in arrears will receive contact home and the student concerned will be expected to bring in a packed lunch until the account is back in credit.

Please remember that there is an autopay facility on iPay where you can set up a regular payment into your child's account. If you wish to discuss any details or need a reminder about login details please contact Mrs Wayne on contact@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk

Attendance

Attendance is a key priority at Nottingham Free School as missing school has a direct impact on how well a student achieves.

Please see our term dates for the next academic year on the school website (Information – Term Dates – Related Downloads) in order to avoid booking any holidays in term time.

Students with high levels of attendance receive a variety of rewards including:

Flapjack Friday – flapjacks awarded every Friday to the tutor group in each year with the highest attendance.

Reward tokens – awarded every half term to all students with an attendance level of 98% or above. These can be cashed in for a variety of prizes or saved up for a bigger prize at the end of the year.

Communication Home

All letters and newsletters are now emailed to you and are also available on our school website (under the information tab).

Please let us know if you have not received any messages or have not been able to log onto your INSIGHT account - all contact with school for general enquiries can be dealt with through contact@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk

Also a reminder to let the school office know if any of your contact information has changed contact@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk

Future key dates

25 April 2018	GCSE Music Spring concert 6.30pm
28 April 2018	Year 10 D of E teaching day (Saturday)
8 May 2018	Year 9 assessments begin
14 May 2018	Year 10 work experience week
22 May 2018	Years 9 & 10 GCSE Geography field trip to Hornsea
24 May 2018	Year 5 Open Evening
25 May 2018	Break up for half term
4 June 2018	First day back after half term
7 June 2018	Year 10 Parent's evening
11 June 2018	Year 7 assessments begin
18 June 2018	Year 8 assessments begin
25 June 2018	Year 10 assessments begin
24 July 2018	Last day of term

All school calendar and term dates are published on the school website.