



December 2018

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

The end of term always comes quickly and this one is no exception. We have many activities to celebrate the end of a long and productive term and our achievement assemblies and house reward events are always a lovely way to end. At Nottingham Free School, we always have a much higher rate of rewarding students than having to issue sanctions. The reward assemblies are a great opportunity to celebrate all of the day to day examples of our 'work hard be kind' motto that we see so often.

Our Christmas music concert is always a fantastic event and I am so proud of the encouragement that our students receive for their artistic talents. In an increasingly pressurised educational climate, it is fantastic that we are still able to offer a very broad curriculum with support for the arts. I am delighted to inform you that Miss Wilson, was recognised for her work with music and as a result, NFS has been nominated by Nottingham Music Hub to become a Music Mark School member for our commitment to providing high quality music education.

Our year 11 students are now starting to complete elements of their GCSE subjects that have practical and coursework units. They are ending the term with a set of predicted mock results which will guide them towards their next steps in education or training. Please do read our Sixth Form update to see how that is progressing. We wish them all a restful break.

Thank you all for your continued support and I wish you all a happy Christmas break.

Mrs J Brown  
Head of School

## Sixth Form



Our sixth form applications have been really pleasing and we have already conducted many interviews and offered places. The applications from external candidates have also been strong and it's very exciting to start to form our first cohort. In the Spring term we are planning some general induction activities so that all applicants can get to know each other and learn more about life at NFS Sixth Form. The key priority now is for all year 11 students to focus on their learning in order to secure the grades needed for their sixth form entry. Please do see our sixth form section on the school website for more details. All year 11 parents and students receive a regular sixth form bulletin via email which keeps them up-to-date on all matters related to this development and features a subject spotlight. This helps to give some wider information on each A Level and how they relate to aspects of life and work.

## Christmas/Winter jumper day

Friday 14 Dec is national Christmas/Winter jumper day. Students can wear a jumper in place of their blazer with a donation of £1 in support of Save the Children.

## Parking safety concerns

We are receiving an increasing number of complaints from parents, neighbours, pedestrians and other road users about the unsafe dropping off and parking at the front of school by some parents. I know that student safety is of the upmost priority for all of us and as a school community: students, parents and staff, we need to work together to ensure that the road outside school is safe for all to use. Policing parking is not something that teaching and school staff can spend time on so I am reminding all parents politely, not to drop off or park in the middle of Haydn Road or on the marked area with yellow zig-zags outside of school. There is plenty of space further down Haydn Road where a student can be dropped off safely and walk for less than a minute to school. If this situation does not improve then we will have to take further steps by contacting parents individually who continue to park unsafely. However, I would prefer to spend staff time and resources on matters relating directly to education.

## Curriculum News

### Art

Year 7 have been learning all about portraiture this term and have created some brilliant monoprints in response to a war time artist called Kathe Kollwitz. They've been exploring how to evoke sad emotions through their work and expanding their vocabulary as well as learning a bit more about

World War 2. Year 8 have just completed their fantastic mixed media final pieces - look out for some of those in our end of year exhibition!

Year 9 have made a fantastic start to their GCSE art and are working very hard both in and out of lessons - another talented cohort to look out for!

Year 10 continue to be fantastic, working hard and producing high quality work. Their next challenge in art is to find a theme to focus on for their coursework unit which will be worth 60% of their overall grade.

Year 11 Art GCSE have almost completed their coursework unit of their GCSE, which means 60% is almost done! They have done very well and created some lovely work ranging from digital editing of photographs to full A1 paintings. It has certainly been a challenging term for year 11 but they have faced it head on and have created some stunning work. After Christmas we will get the titles from the exam board OCR and pupils will start the preparation for their final exam after Easter.

Below is one of the impressive final pieces from our Year 11 group:



## Food

### Future Chef

On 23<sup>rd</sup> November Miss Radford took two students, Solly Worth and Seth Richards to take part in the local heat of 'Future Chef'. The competition was held at Vision West College in Mansfield and 14 students took part from schools across Nottinghamshire. Both students cooked mouth-watering dishes that consisted of Roasted pork belly followed by a chocolate soufflé and a salmon en crouete followed by lemon mousse. The dishes were judged by local chefs and received positive feedback. While there Seth and Solly also has the opportunity to take a tour of the professional kitchens and see the onsite restaurant in action.



### Baking Enrichment

This term in baking enrichment we have had lots of tasty treats! Students have baked 11 different products including shortbread, Chelsea buns, jalousie and mini cheddars. Both baking enrichment groups have developed their time management and organisation skills being able to cook and wash up in only one hour. Over the last two weeks we have been getting in the festive spirit and have made some wonderful gingerbread biscuits and stain glass window biscuits ready to hang on a Christmas tree.



## **PE**

There are plenty of highlights from our fixtures this term. Our students have been model sportspeople as well as hard-working and resilient athletes. We are exceptionally proud of the reputation we are building across the city and county. Here are a few of the notable moments!

### **Netball**

#### **Year 11 Team**

The Y11s played their final City Schools' tournament this term and whilst they didn't progress to the finals, their progress over the 3 years I have coached them, has been astronomical. The girls have dealt with tough criticism, 3 years of mostly cold, outdoor training (sometimes in the dark!) and have shown such commitment to being resilient, hard-working and a genuinely formidable team. I am so proud of each and every one of them. I can't wait for our Year 12 team!

#### **Year 7 Team**

The Y7s played their first ever City Schools' tournament this term, with a massive 5 fixtures in one cold night at NUSA. The girls looked overwhelmed to start off with, but soon slowed down to remember what they had been taught in training sessions. We have put in some really solid foundations to progress with, in preparation for the second round, in March and the school's first sports tour to Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy, In May! Watch this space for more info on that.

#### **Year 8 Team**

Well what an absolute dream these battlers are! The Y8s played their first five fixtures at NUSA this term and beat everyone who was unfortunate to cross their paths. As featured on the website, the girls closely beat Arnold Hill (3-2), then Fernwood (2-1), followed by two brilliant victories against Carlton-Le-Willows (9-0), Hall Park (5-0) and then a final composed and convincing victory against Nottingham High School (5-2). These results are testament to them being so responsive to feedback, so eager to do well and for being so determined, whoever they face. Well done, girls!

### **Football**

#### **Year 11 Team (Boys)**

The year 11 football team recently played in the U16's League cup against Bluecoat Aspley. The students played extremely well, and took a 2-1 win away from home. Students from both schools

showed a fantastic level of skill and sportsmanship throughout the game. We wish them good luck with the rest of the season.

### **Year 8 Team (Boys)**

The year 8 Football team have recently represented Nottingham Free School in a football match against NUSA. The students played well as a team, but unfortunately weren't able to beat the opposition. It was definitely a game of two halves and the students showed great potential for future football matches.

### **Under 13s (Girls)**

15 Y7 girls represented the school in the EFL tournament, last week. Their effort was exceptional and the B team came away with two wins, one draw and a loss. There was fantastic sportsmanship shown by all girls involved.

### **PSHCE**

Year 7 have been learning about citizenship and the United Nations' rights of a child in their PSHE lessons this term; they have been looking at what makes a good member of the community. More recently they have also looked at the more serious topic of extremism and radicalisation, studying previous cases and learning about the signs that someone who is being radicalised might show. We have a very open forum for questions and discussions within PSHE lessons so that pupils feel they can ask questions openly but also mention any concerns that they might have.

Year 8 have been learning more about refugees and how to empathise with the situation that many refugee children find themselves in. Year 9 have been focusing on finance in the last few weeks in order to prepare them for the future, looking at bank accounts and how to manage a budget. Year 10 received a workshop from the city council to learn more about the law, sexting and realistic expectations. Year 11 have been using their PSHE lessons to look at what they want to do after GCSEs. They have been using a program called Unifrog; this is an amazing resource which helps pupils explore further education and apprenticeships and can be accessed at home as well as school. Year 11 have also been very busy with Sixth Form and college applications!

### **Spanish**

In Spanish lessons this term, students have been working hard on practising the content of their knowledge organisers in a variety of ways, including using Kahoot, Quizlet and translation activities. They have also been building confidence in sharing mistakes and corrections they have made to their work, which has been successful in helping learners to make progress. Year 7 have been learning

about free time and school, whilst year 8 have been studying the topics of fashion and leisure. Year 9 have been learning to discuss school rules and extracurricular activities, whilst year 10 have been learning about cities. The year 11 mock speaking assessments went well overall and they have been finishing the GCSE course with the topic of the environment and global issues. Another successful term, well done and thank you for your continued commitment to vocabulary and grammar practice.

### **Christmas Concert**

Students have been working hard for our annual Christmas concert. This takes place on Thursday 13 Dec 6.30pm – 8pm. There will be a range of instrumentalists, vocalists, group ensembles and LAMDA performances. We are all looking forward to seeing the students' performances.

### **Reverse Advent Calendar**

All tutor sets have been collecting food and other items to put in their reverse advent calendar. This is where they collectively give an item each day for 24 days to donate to someone in need. All food items will be delivered to Arnold Food Bank on Friday 14 December. Any clothing or games will be delivered to the local charity shops in Sherwood. Well done all for thinking of others at this time of year – a real demonstration of 'be kind'.

### **House Reward**

Has been won by Hawksley again! They achieved the most net positive points this half term.

House captains have organised a variety of competitions this half term which have been thoroughly enjoyed by all students. The competitions that have taken place are; bottle flip challenge, skipping rope challenge, beat a world record, guess the song, pictictionary and guess the advert. Hawksley have won the majority of these competitions. Well done to the house captains and vice captains for organising.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is a key priority at Nottingham Free School as missing school has a direct impact on how well a student achieves. We aim for every student to have at least 97% attendance.

Our current whole school attendance is 97% which is a great start for the first term. Our target is to stay at this level or improve.

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

### Communication Home

All letters and newsletters are 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](mailto: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](mailto:contact@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk)

### iPay

All payments to school should now be through the iPay system or by cheque. If you do not have the details for this online payment system, then please contact Mrs Wayne, our finance officer on [contact@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk](mailto:contact@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk)

### Future key dates

All dates are on the school website – please check the calendar section for details

Friday 14 December	Last day of term for all students
Monday 7 January	First day back for all students – school finishes at 3.35pm
Wednesday 9 January	Year 8 Parents evening – school finishes at 3.30pm
Thursday 17 January	Year 11 Parents evening – school finishes at 3.30pm
Monday 21 January	Year 8 assessment week begins
Monday 4 February	Year 10 assessment week begins