



NATIONAL
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ACADEMY

Pentecost Newsletter

Summer address from Mr Brailsford - Headteacher

With only days to go before this academic year ends, I would like to thank everyone who has supported our students and our academy, on what has been another successful year.

This year has seen many school trips and extracurricular activities from theatre trips to residential, even trips to London and Germany. Our school production of Popstars: The 90s Musical was a particular highlight of the year and it is nice to see so many students embracing all the opportunities on offer to them at National and living 'life in all its fullness'. Our students are always a credit to the Academy, and it was a lovely way to end the year celebrating with some of them at our Achievement Evening, that took place on Monday 22nd July.

The Academy reopens to students following the summer break on Wednesday 4th September for year 7 students only and year 12 at HSFC, with all year groups returning on Thursday 5th September.

Finally, I have chosen a bible passage for our community to hold on to over summer:

In peace I will lie down and sleep,
for you alone, LORD,
make me dwell in safety.

Thank you as ever for your continued support. Take care and have a great summer.

Mr Brailsford



'Life in all its fullness' John 10:10

Hagg Farm

Our recent residential trip to Hagg Farm was an incredible experience filled with adventure and personal growth for the 41 year 7 students that attended. The outdoor activity centre provided the perfect setting for our group to engage in a variety of challenging activities, including caving, abseiling, and hiking.

Our students demonstrated remarkable resilience and teamwork throughout the trip. The caving expedition pushed them out of their comfort zones, as they navigated through tight spaces and underground passages, relying on each other for support and encouragement. The abseiling activity tested their courage and trust, with students bravely descending from a bridge under the guidance of skilled instructors. Hiking through the beautiful and rugged terrain of the Peak district allowed them to appreciate nature's beauty while working together to overcome physical challenges.

The trip was not just about physical activity; it was a valuable opportunity for our students to develop essential life skills. They learned the importance of communication, trust, and cooperation, which are crucial in both their academic and personal lives. The sense of accomplishment and camaraderie they gained from this experience will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact.

We are incredibly proud of our students for their perseverance and positive attitudes. Hagg Farm has provided us with unforgettable memories and invaluable lessons that will inspire us for years to come.

Mrs K Marshall - Head of MAC



Year 9 Germany trip

On the evening of Sunday 30th June, 50 year 9 students set off to Germany, travelling by coach and ferry to the Hotel Adler, in the quaint spa town of Bad-Salzig in the Rhineland. Students were very happy to be greeted at the hotel with traditional German bratwurst and chips on their arrival!

On the first day, students completed a town trail in the neighbouring town of Boppard on the Rhine, where students had to find clues and information around the town in German and answer questions. Later on, we visited Cochem, another picturesque town, situated the Moselle river. Despite the rain, students enjoyed some shopping and trying some German specialities such as currywurst and spaghettiis. Once the rain cleared, we headed up the hill for a guided tour of the castle and learnt about its origins. Students were able to capture some lovely photos of the views despite the clouds. Next, students nervously got on the chair lift to see the town, river and the castle from the sky. A big well done to students (and some staff) for combatting their fear of heights!

Wednesday saw us visit the Deutsches Eck in Koblenz, where the Rhine and Moselle rivers meet. We visited the huge Wilhelm monument and took the Seilbahn up to the fortress to take in the view. Lunchtime saw some stiff competition in "The Apprentice". Students received a text listing 4 items and were given €5 to buy them, as quickly and cheaply as possible, including the most random item they could find. We saw an array of items such as washing sponges, toe nail clippers, eyeballs and celery. There were 2 new school records set this year, as the fastest group completed this in just over 9 minutes and the cheapest bought all 4 items for €2.10. Later, students took a relaxing cruise along the River Rhine, seeing lots of castles and heard the story of Lorelei – a beautiful siren, who whispered to the sailors to come closer and then made them crash into the rocks behind. After dinner, students and staff got competitive and spent 2 hours bowling, where Mr Lee was knocked off his top spot from last year by Ava and Mr Hunt replaced him as the staff champion!



A very early start on Thursday saw the group visit the city of Cologne. Firstly, students learnt about the origins of chocolate and saw a production line complete with tasters at the Schokolademuseum. Lots of lovely gifts were bought here for friends and family. We also visited the Kölner Dom (cathedral) and had some free time in the city. Many students braved the 533 steps up the spire of the cathedral – not for the faint hearted and there were many wobbly legs on the way down! In the afternoon, a highlight for many was a tour of the Bayarena, which is the home of the football team Bayer 04 Leverkusen. Students learnt about the history of the club, were shown around the stadium seating, VIP lounges, dressing rooms and the tunnel leading to the pitch, which apparently is the best in Europe! Sadly, we didn't see the Bundesliga trophy they had just won, as it doesn't arrive until August, but something to look out for next year! Students also played football bowling and had a shoot out. Students also took part in a pretend press conference with microphones, where they practised their German with the guide.

The students really enjoyed their trip and got involved in all the activities. It was great to see them all having a go at speaking German in a real life setting.

Mrs A Guest - Teacher of German

Year 9 Theatre Trip



On Thursday 18th July 150 of our year 9 students took a trip to Leicester Curve theatre to see the smash-hit and critically acclaimed feel good West End musical Everybody's Talking About Jamie. It was a fantastic show, showcasing some amazing talent! The students enjoyed the theatre experience and diverse themes explored.

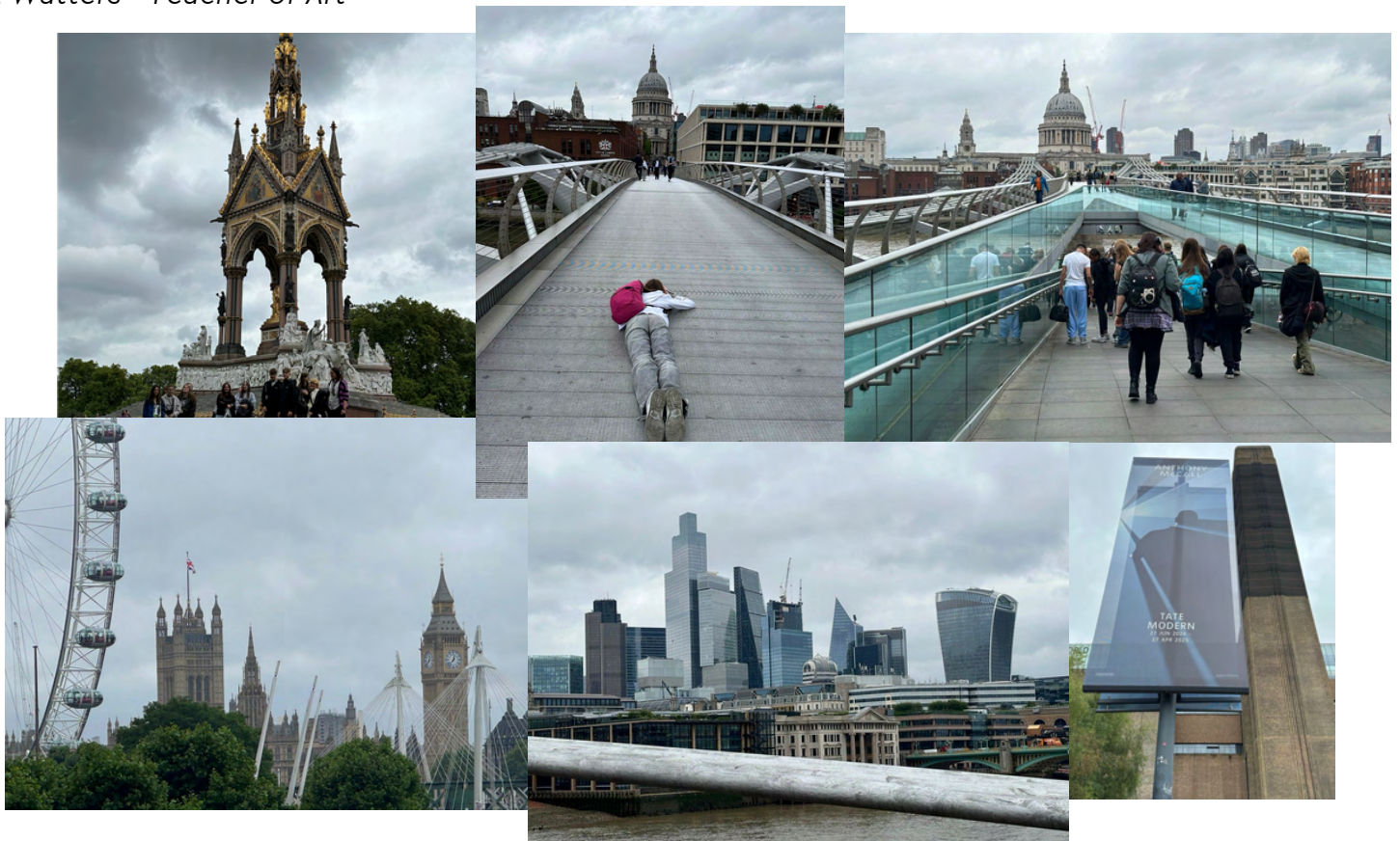
Year 10 London ADT Trip

19 year 10 students from across ADT subjects travelled down to London on the 8th and 9th July to explore the sights, art and culture of London.

On the first day we took the train from Nottingham to St Pancras and a quick tube ride to visit our first stop, the Design Museum in Kensington. We explored the exhibits which included product, industrial, graphic, fashion, and architectural design. A short ride away to our next visit was the V & A in South Kensington, which is the world's largest museum of applied arts, decorative arts and design, housing a permanent collection of over 2.27 million objects. A walk to get the tube on the Piccadilly line to Covent Garden for a little visit around the shops before heading out for our evening meal at Frankie and Bennies. Everyone returned back to the hotel for an early night after a day of walking, exploring and discovery.

The following day we were up bright and early for a full English breakfast, ready to take in the Tate Modern gallery, which houses the United Kingdom's national collection of international modern and contemporary art. Another lunch at Covent Garden before our last visit of the day to The Photographers gallery near Oxford Circus. An amazing group of art, design and photography students, explored what London had to offer on our whistle stop two day visit.

L Watters - Teacher of Art



Year 8 Art Workshops

Year 8 students attended 4 weeks of art workshops creating acrylic paintings on canvas. For many it was the first time of experiencing this type of painting. They selected their own images to paint and produced some amazing paintings. We were particularly impressed at how determined and positive they were. Looking forward to seeing how their art work develops next year! Well done.

Mrs S Kyle - Teacher of Art & Design



10 Hours of Sport

On Friday 12th July, 33 of our year 7 students participated in a sponsored event, 10 hours of sport, starting early at 7am and going right through the day until 6pm!

This 10 hour of sport charity event was a phenomenal experience, showcasing the incredible dedication and resilience of our students. From start to finish, the event was filled with energy, enthusiasm, and a strong sense of community spirit. The variety of sports and activities kept everyone engaged and highlighted the versatility and athleticism of all. Despite the physical demands, our students pushed through with unwavering determination, demonstrating true sportsmanship and teamwork. Additionally, the support from the staff was overwhelming, contributing to a significant amount of time to support the students.

Our students raised a total of £1700 for Cancer Research and our Ghana partnership, resulting in an amazing £850 being donated to each of the two exceptional causes.

Mr N Hunt - Teacher of PE and Mrs M Jones - Head of PACE



PACE Awards Evening

First ever PACE Awards evening took place on Monday 8th July evening, celebrating the achievements, commitment and dedication of students in PE, music and drama.

The evening was also a display of some of the students talents with performances in dance, music and drama.

A huge congratulations to all those students who received awards.



This year the English Schools' Football Association requested nominations of students for the Reward and Recognition Pupil Development Awards 2024. One of our year 9 students, Isabelle, made it to the final shortlist of four for England. Eventually Isabelle was crowned the winner and has received the award for pupil development through schools' football. A huge congratulations to Isabelle!

"These awards are designed to celebrate the development a player involved in secondary schools' football, representing their school football team. This is not an award for "the best football", but an award for a player who has strived for the very best, overcome obstacles, shown improvement and resilience and has developed both in school and socially through their playing of schools' football, as part of a team"

MITRE Music Project - Concert at the Minster

The newly formed National Academy choir had their first ever performance at the Southwell Minster on 4th July. This was alongside 11 other MITRE schools. Students performed 'Lean On Me' and 'Wonderful World'. It was a fantastic showcase of talent from all schools and a great opportunity for our students to collaborate and network with other students from other schools.

We are looking forward already to next years venture.

Mr I Bagott - Teacher of Music
and Mrs M Jones - Head of PACE



Enrichment Day

On Wednesday 17th July all of our students took part in our annual enrichment day, three year groups went out on trips to complement their learning and enrich their school experience. Our year 10 students stayed on site to follow a carousel of career themed activities with external visitors throughout the day.



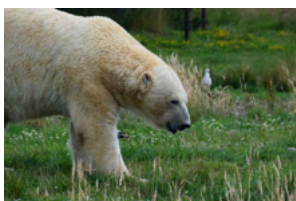
146 **year 7** students along with 15 members of staff went on our enrichment day trip to the **Galleries of Justice and the Nottingham Caves**. It was a fantastic day, with all students immersing themselves in the crime and punishment of the Industrial Revolution era! Students looked at the different crimes that were committed, the harsh and gruesome punishments that were given, along with understanding why this occurred. Students also had the chance to go inside the court room and re-enact a trial. So many students got involved, dressing up as their character and giving a very believable performance. Some varied decisions were made by the jury, and it was so great to see so many students getting involved. Students also then had the opportunity to go on a guided tour of the Nottingham Caves to understand what they were like and how they have been used throughout history. The students were engaged and enthusiastic throughout the day, and it was a pleasure to take them on the trip. Thank you also to all the staff who attended on the day – it could not have gone as smoothly as it did without your help and support.

Miss B Surgey - Teacher of history



Our **year 8** students took a trip to **Yorkshire Sculpture Park**. The students were tasked at looking at the various sculptures around the park to see if they could find a link between spirituality and art. The students had a booklet to complete on their way around to help facilitate this and the booklet highlighted some key sculptures which linked well to this topic. Students were then invited to reflect on their favourite sculptures and the ones that they felt best expressed how they feel. The weather was fantastic for a great day outdoors.

L Catling - Teacher of social sciences



188 students in **year 9**, along with 18 members of staff had the privilege of going to **Yorkshire Wildlife Park** for the day. The students were able to see a wide selection of animals, including meerkats, polar bears, capybaras and a binturong! Many of them will be leaving with long-lasting memories of seeing the giraffes having fun in their enclosure, and some were even lucky enough to see the leopard high up at the top of its climbing frame. As well as enjoying a day in the sunshine, the students also spent some time collecting information and ideas for a project they are completing at school, where they can think about possible careers working with animals; the ethics of keeping animals in captivity, or teaching people as much as they can about one of the animals in the wildlife park. We are really looking forward to seeing the work it inspires!

Mr B Walton - Teacher of science

Careers

The Pentecost term is always a busy one for Careers, and this year has been no exception. We have been busy with several trips and projects and are really proud of our student engagement this year. Some fantastic KS3 students volunteered to take part in a Leadership programme, led in school by myself and our brilliant Enterprise Advisor, Yvonne. This was a great opportunity for our students to explore what it really means to be a leader both in school and in the workplace.

Additionally, we were delighted to return to the University of Nottingham on Thursday 6th and Friday 7th June with two groups of year 8 students for a day exploring the beautiful campus! Our students learnt about university life and even competed to design a brand new university.

On Friday 5th July we visited West Notts College with 70 year 10 students who are keen to explore post-16 opportunities! We took part in a number of workshops, including Animal Care and Media!



As part of our whole school enrichment day on Wednesday 17th July, year 10 had their Industry in School day whereby we welcomed six different local employers to the academy. Students took part in a carousel of workshops and activities from employers including the Armed Forces, Aerospace Engineering and Marketing. Additionally, students learnt about being self-employed and college courses, including Environmental Science and Politics. We look forward to welcoming our brilliant guests to the academy again next year!



Miss O Hyde - CEIAG lead and teacher of English

Year 11 Celebration Service

On Tuesday 25th June I had the privilege of helping to lead the year 11 celebration service at the Church of St Mary Magdalene in the centre of Hucknall.

After a warm welcome from Reverend Helen Chantry, Mr Brailsford shared his thoughts on the last five years and praised the effort and commitment the students had shown on a regular basis. He also reflected on the cultural similarities and differences between when he started school compared with when this year group's educational journey began.

I found it very interesting to reflect with the students on the changes that had happened during their time at National. This was the last year group to start their secondary school journey before the Coronavirus hit this country.

We reflected on the Oxford Dictionary's word of the year for the five years that they'd been at the Academy and how language can provide a snapshot of societal context. The students were then challenged to summarise their school life in five words. This provoked some very interesting discussions and as I circulated the church and asked one group of students to share their thoughts, one girl offered the word 'spectacular' to summarise her time at National. Personally, I felt that this was a huge complement to, and vindication of, the tireless work and commitment shown by the staff body, governors and all who are connected to the Academy in any way.

I also shared with the students the words of Joshua 1:9, from the Bible, which says: 'Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.' I wanted to leave them with words that not only felt relevant at this point but also may resonate with them later down the line. I felt it was really important to remind them that Christians believe that even in difficult or uncertain times, God is always with us.

Helen then led us in a prayerful reflection before Ms Craven, the Head of year 11, closed the service with some final words of encouragement and farewell.

Overall, it was a lovely occasion to round off the students' time here at The National Church of England Academy.

Mr T Surgay - Academy Chaplin



Goodbye To Year 11

Year 11 Leaver's Service

The year 11 leaver's service took place on Tuesday 25th June at St Mary's Church, Hucknall. The service was extremely well attended and a wonderful opportunity to look back on their time at National and to look forward to what the future holds for them. It was my pleasure to address the students who attended and reflect on the many positives they have achieved during their time at National. We closed the service with a reflection on kindness which is shared here: Kindness is one of the greatest gifts you can bestow upon another. If someone is in need, lend them a helping hand. Do not wait for a thank you. True kindness lies within the act of giving without the expectation of something in return.

Year 11 Prom

The year 11 prom took place on Wednesday 26th June at Goosedale. It was a lovely warm and importantly, dry evening and our year 11 students were able to enjoy quality time together with their friends in celebration.

Prizes were awarded on the evening to students in attendance for:

Most Positive - Sophie P
Most Sassy - Astrid B
Most likely to be a millionaire - Aariyan D
Funniest - Richard M
Nicest - Maisie B
Most Iconic - Keane S
Who has the most energy - Sophie P
Best Duo - Jack D & Tyler F
Prom King - Richard M
Prom Queen - Charlotte P

Award for best dressed, which was decided by staff in attendance on the night, went to Holly K

All of the year 11 tutors, Mr Crossland, deputy head of year 11 and I wish all our year 11 leavers the very best as they start this next chapter in their lives.

Ms S Craven – Head of year 11



Academy Support For Ghana

For the last 5 years students at National Academy have been raising funds in their tutor groups to support the education of 5 students who attend the King's School in Botanga, Northern Ghana. This is a very remote and poor part of the country where only 30% can read and write. Education is the key to development here and can provide the key to escape from poverty giving the children opportunities to make positive choices about their futures.

Each year group has an individual child that they support, so they know exactly who their sponsorship money is going to. National is so proud of the fact that this year we have been able to not only pay for the education of these 5 children (it costs £15 per month for each child) but we have also been able to donate a further £850 raised by the 10 hours of sport sponsored event as well as the extra fundraising by some amazing National students and their tutor groups. There has been some amazing fundraising activity this year, including:

Mrs Guest and Mrs Chamber's tutor group bake sales

Mr Gregory's tutor group made and sold Christmas baubles

Miss Cope's tutor group had an auction

Mr South's tutor group went out with the Rotary Club on Santa's sleigh

Mrs Dickin was able to travel out to Ghana in October 2023 to visit the children and take some gifts and support materials for the teaching staff. On behalf of the leaders of the King's School I would like to say a big thank you to any parent/guardian who has donated this year and please know that the money raised is making huge, positive difference to the lives of these children.

Mrs Dickin - Teacher of geography



Year 7 - Tiyumba



Year 8 - Safura



Year 9 - Sadia



Year 10 - Haq



Year 11 - Fozan



Year 8 Boys Football

The year 8 boys football team entered the 1st annual EFD Tournament with high expectations, given their strong track record from the last two seasons, having reached three quarter finals and a semi final out of 6 cups. EFD Sport and Education was set up by footballer Ben Osborn. Throughout this tournament, they demonstrated their dominance by remaining undefeated in all matches. However, due to the unique format of the tournament, they finished in 3rd place, a surprising outcome that left all both impressed and puzzled.

In the group stage, National showcased their prowess by winning 4 out of 6 matches with remarkable ease and drawing the remaining two matches. Their coordinated strategies, combined with individual brilliance, saw them gain the attention of the hosts and Ben Osborn himself. Highlights included:

Match 4: National 2 - 1 Meadowhead School (who became eventual tournament winners)

- Goals from Rafe H and Alfie P

Match 5: National 5 - 0 Beechdale Academy

- Goals from Henry R(x2), Rafe H(x2) and Alfie P

Match 6: National 4 - 0 Outwood Academy

- Goals from Henry R, Blake H, Rafe H and Alfie P

Despite the players being unbeaten and showing outstanding form, scoring 17 goals, they fell short on the playing in the final by just one point. With the lack of a semi final format cost the team a real opportunity of winning their first silverware. However the players from National represented themselves and their school to the very highest standards and congratulated Meadowhead School after the final whistle was blown and they took the lead in group.

Although the whole team demonstrated huge skill and ability, along with excellent sportsmanship the awards went to:

- Players player: Blake H
- Top goal scorer: Rafe H - scoring 5

Honorary mention must also go out to year 7 student Henry R who debuted for year 8, playing up a year and showing himself in an outstanding light, catching the attention of his fellow players as well as scoring 2 goals during the day.

Mr N Hunt - Teacher of PE



Year 9 Girls Football

Well what a game! Our year 9 girls football team reached the final of the South Notts County Cup. It was National Academy vs. Minster School, on Thursday 23rd June. And... National are champions!

It was a fantastic game that could easily have gone either way but the girls persevered and continued to be determined. The end to end game resulted in National winning a fantastic 4 - 1.

It was a fantastic show of girls football! We are so proud of their fantastic achievements.

Mrs M Jones - Head of PACE



Creativity and Innovation Day 2024

Each year in Art, we hold a day which is centred on an art activity which helps support or benefit the wider community or the school community. Recent examples include, the artwork contributed to the Papplewick play area, the artwork in the library, the artwork exhibited in the Hucknall sports centre and the tree painting/mural in the whiting room. This is an opportunity to use our creative talents as staff and students, to help and support the school community or the wider community.

This year, ADT joined together for our first collaboration on the 'creativity and innovation day'. Students designed and created herb plant markers, spoon markers, painted tiles, clay tile making, wooden art markers and other decorative items to celebrate our new addition to the ADT area. This newly created herb garden will be used in students own cooked creations, in future food lessons.

L Watters - Teacher of art



Head of Year Highlights

Year 7

The first year of secondary education for our not so new year 7 students is nearly over. I am so proud of how well they have transitioned and settled into school life here at National. The year 7 students have had lots of new school experiences this year as well as plenty of enrichment opportunities, including a theatre visit, a trip to the Galleries of Justice and the Nottingham Caves, and a residential trip to Hagg Farm.

A huge congratulations to our top five achievement point earners Tillie B, Amy D, Vienna L, Lucas S, Oliver C all of whom have over 550 points. I would like to say a special well done to Tillie B who has achieved an incredible 802 positive points. Well done Tillie.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all our students a restful summer. See you all in September for us to start our journey through to year 8.

Mr J Beaver - Head of year 7

Year 8

I would like to extend my gratitude to everyone for the warm welcome I have received in my new role as head of year 8 during Mrs. Hopkin's maternity leave. This year has been filled with numerous positive highlights, both inside and outside the classroom, and I am excited to share them with you.

Daily school attendance plays a crucial role in each child's academic success, overall wellbeing, and broader development. At the time of writing, the average attendance for year 8 stands at 92.4%. A special congratulations to 8F for leading the way with an impressive 96% attendance rate! Additionally, we commend the 15 year 8 students who have maintained perfect attendance since the start of the school year—a truly remarkable achievement.

In academic pursuits, every year 8 student has earned achievement points, culminating in a collective total of over 60,000 positive achievement points throughout the year. 8B stands out with over 9,500 positive points. We also celebrate the top five students for their outstanding accomplishments: Charles A, Georgia G, David G, Jimmy L, and Rosa B, each earning over 500 achievement points this term. Special recognition goes to Charles A for being the first in the year group to receive the Governor's Award which is awarded to students who reach 550 achievement points.

Our students have also actively participated in various extracurricular activities over the year. Highlights include an inspiring visit to the University of Nottingham, a trip to the theatre and an enriching day at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. These experiences have greatly contributed to the students' growth and learning beyond the classroom.

Well done to all year 8 students for their hard work and achievements this term. Enjoy a well-deserved summer break, and we look forward to embarking on the final year of key stage 3 together in year 9.

Mr L Gregory and Mrs S Bird - Head and assistant head of year 8

Head of Year Highlights

Year 9

Year 9 have made significant gains in the final term of an important academic year, where plenty has been achieved both in and out of the classroom.

Being in school every day that it is open, is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and their wider development. Well done to 9G, leading the way with an average attendance of 93.66% this term, and the 84 year 9 students above our 97% target, with 39 students at 100%.

In lessons every student has received achievement points, and year 9 have collectively been awarded over 17,000 positive achievement points this term. 9F lead the way this term with over 3,300 positive achievement points. Individually, congratulations to Micaiah in 9A, Joseph in 9A, Taye in 9B, Jacob in 9B, Amy in 9D, Ruby in 9D, Finlay in 9D, Keyarna in 9D, Evie in 9D, and Sophie in 9G for being our 10 most rewarded students in year 9 this term.

This term year 9 have visited the Beth Shalom National Holocaust Centre and Museum, 50 year 9 students travelled to Germany for an enrichment trip and finally a whole year group trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park for enrichment day.

Year 9 have also recently sat their end of year assessments, with some taking place in the sports hall replicating GCSE exam conditions. These assessments will go a long way toward determining their sets for year 10 and they were approached with commitment, determination and positivity.

Well done to all year 9's for each of their positives this term, and enjoy the summer break.

Mr J Gilham and Mrs L Newns - Head and assistant head of year 9

Year 10

Congratulations again to Liddeyia B, Simone E, and Amy H, who all have 100% attendance, more than 100 achievement points, have not been late to a single lesson and have not got a single debit, a fantastic example to all other pupils in year 10.

Our top three positive point earners for the half term are Isabelle T with 418, Dylan C with 294, and Kyra K with 390, a fantastic effort!

As I mentioned in our achievement assembly there is only a quarter of your time here at National left, around 120 actual school days! Now is the time to think seriously about the future, and start making plans to get you to where you want to be!

Enjoy your summer year 10 and see you next year!

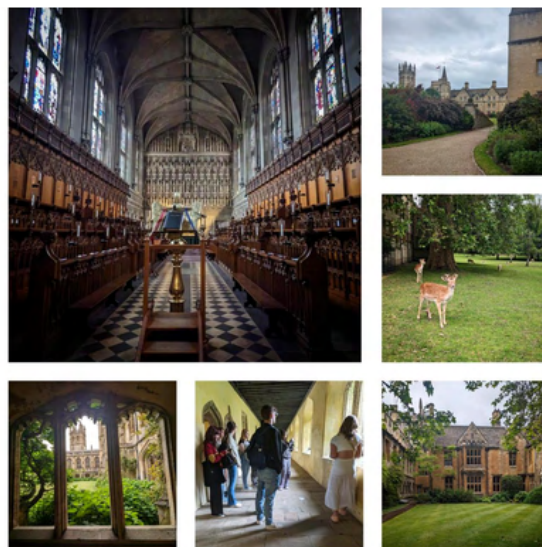
Mr K Mistry - Head of year 10



News from HSFC

On Tuesday 4th June we were invited to take a group of students to Magdalen College, Oxford. 22 of our year 12 students opted to join this successful visit and were able to tour the college and the city. They took a taster history lecture on 16th Century Seville and gathered useful information on university life and Oxbridge applications.

On Friday 6th June, the entire year 12 cohort attended the UCAS Exhibition in Sheffield, which also had presentations and stands for apprenticeship providers. Students were able to find out lots of information about their options after sixth form, and of course, collect lots of university merchandise!



On Monday 8th July, our year 12 cohort took another whole year trip to the University of Nottingham where they engaged in campus tours, personal statement guidance and a student life seminar from their current students. This will help to inform their UCAS process in the autumn term.

During the week of 1st - 5th July our year 12 students undertook a diverse range of work experience placements. Three of our cohort explain here how they found the experience.

Charlie B spent the week with an architecture firm using professional software to develop an exciting building design for a coffee and book shop in Sneinton, he said: "Work experience greatly helped me in developing skills that will help me in not only my university applications but also in my future career, working in an office environment taught me valuable skills in professionalism and computer skills, plus presentation skills through me presenting my work to the office. Work experience is incredibly valuable and helpful and I recommend it to everyone no matter their desired career."

Freya J said: "During my work experience week, I worked in a primary school with the year 4 classes. I helped the teachers with various admin tasks at the start and end of the days, taking displays down and preparing things for their lessons. I worked closely with pupils with lessons like reading, maths and DT. It was a fantastic week, I absolutely loved it and enjoyed working with kids. It has confirmed my thoughts on my future career path – primary teaching – and the positive feedback I got from everyone who I worked with made me feel valued and appreciated. It was honestly one of the best weeks of my life, I didn't want to leave! I have already volunteered to work there once I've finished my A-Levels; I can't wait to go back."

Esmé B spent their work experience at the University of Nottingham Physics Department. "We attended a series of lectures on topics including MRIs and MEGs (a specialty of Nottingham), Cosmology and Nanophysics. It was interesting to tour the University facilities like the teaching labs, the Inflaverse (an inflatable planetarium) and the black hole lab where we observed a demonstration of a black hole simulation (and a toy duck pulled into the modelled black hole!). We also participated in experiments such as a practical observing beta particle absorption and interviewed academics researching different areas of physics. Finally, the week involved engaging in academic sources and putting together a mock grant proposal in group. It was really interesting to look deeper into areas of physics that were new to us, as well as getting a feel for life as a university student or academic."

Faculty Blog - Science

Every time you turn on a light switch, do any form of exercise or turn on a tap, you are relying on processes and ideas that are part of the science curriculum at the National Academy. Our aim throughout the time that students are studying with us is to give them opportunities to understand and explain everyday experiences and to see the impact that science has on their lives.

We are really proud of our new sequence of lessons in key stage 3. These have been carefully planned to encourage the students to think deeply about the ideas they are learning about and to give them opportunities to revisit and embed the knowledge they have. Year 7 have been trialling hinge assessments for the first time – low-stakes, mid-topic quizzes that allow them to practice the work they have been doing and identify their strengths and weaknesses. Not only does this reduce the pressure on end-of-topic tests because they have already had chance to practice some of the knowledge in them, it gives their teachers valuable insights into the areas that they are finding hard, so they can support them better.

At key stage 4, emphasise working scientifically and practical skills, alongside the core knowledge of the GCSE curriculum. Science is a practical subject. Hands-on experiences support understanding theoretical knowledge and allow our students to actively engage in a wide array of practical activities to carry out investigations and see real-life examples of what is being learned in the classroom and at home. These experiences not only enhance academic understanding but also foster critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork skills essential for success after year 11.

Outside of lessons, our STEM club have been having a fabulous time looking at practical applications of science, as well as some more creative ones too! We've built a Tellurion and a pinhole camera as part of a term exploring space, made colour-changing potions as part of a Harry Potter-themed event, and built enormous towers out of spaghetti! STEM Club also enjoyed a trip to Nottingham Trent University to look at careers in engineering earlier this half term, and year 9 are eagerly anticipating their visit to Yorkshire Wildlife Park for enrichment day.

Looking ahead, our vision remains for every student at the National Academy to experience the passion for science that we all have as teachers. We hope to give them opportunities to explore nature, exercise their curiosity and discover all of the ways that their daily lives are impacted by scientific knowledge and thought.

Faculty Blog - Humanities

One of the most rewarding aspects of being part of young people's education is what happens beyond the confines of a classroom. Seeing students conquer their fear of heights at Hagg Farm or being genuinely in awe of the effort's soldiers went to in the First World War is not surprisingly pleasing. Designing school enrichment that not only adds to the growth of our young people but extends learning beyond the classroom takes time but is always rewarded with exceptional student attitudes. Year 7s trip to the Galleries of Justice last week led by Ms Surgey and Mrs Westwood gave the students a great insight into the history of Nottingham. Year 7 Geographers have been developing their fieldwork skills using new weather measuring equipment to collect data around the Academy.

As the summer break begins and students embark on some much-needed rest and relaxation, the opportunities that parents and guardians provide for learning outside the classroom have a significant impact come the students return to school in September. Whether it be a summer project, a trip to a cultural sight, reading or simply spending time with family, the summer break is a fantastic opportunity to keep learning.

Mr Jones triathlon success



Here at The National C of E Academy we celebrate the successes of all.

On the weekend of 20-22nd June our own Mr Jones was competing in the European middle distance triathlon championships in Portugal. It says middle distance but ... there is no middle in a; 1900m swim, 90km bike and 21km run, in 25 degree heat.

Mr Jones was ranked 18th in Europe in the amateur competition and 5th in his age category. This means that Mr Jones has qualified for the world championships next year.

A massive congratulations to Mr Jones for a fantastic achievement.

Staffing changes

We have quite a few changes to make you aware of as we close at the end of another academic year. Indeed, staff leaving have accumulated a total of 93 years serving the children and families of the Hucknall area!

Goodbyes

Mr Brady [social sciences] and Ms Bird [humanities] are leaving us after 1 year.

Ms Penlington [science] is leaving after 5 years.

Mrs Vaishampayan, our education welfare officer, is retiring after 8 years.

Mrs Shaw [maths] is leaving after 9 years.

Mrs Kells, the academy's senior finance officer, is retiring after 10 years.

Mrs Soltysik [Languages] is retiring after 17 years.

Mrs Dickin [humanities] is leaving after 21 years.

Mrs Stones [SENCo & assistant headteacher] is leaving after 21 years.

As always, we are so grateful of all they have done in supporting the school and in improving the life chances of the young people we all work on behalf of. We wish them well in whatever lies ahead.

Hellos

Mr Adam [social sciences]: religious studies and PD teacher

Mrs Botham [inclusion]: personal care assistant

Ms Clark [inclusion]: learning support assistant

Ms Douglas [languages]: English teacher

Ms Plastow [humanities]: geography teacher

Ms Reid [science]: science teacher

Mrs Ridley [support]: finance officer

Mr Watkin [MAC]: maths teacher

Ms Wright [inclusion]: learning support assistant

Other notable changes:

Mr Veasey has taken the role of academy SENCo, while Mr Walton is the deputy SENCo

We said goodbye for now to Mrs Hopkin [humanities] as she went on maternity leave, and Mr Gregory [ADT] takes on head of year 8 in her absence.

Dates to remember

Wednesday 4th September 2024 - Year 7 and year 12 return to school

Thursday 5th September - All years return to school

Thursday 26th September - Year 7 welcome service

Thursday 26th September - Year 6 open evening

Friday 27th September - INSET day

Friday 4th October - School photograph day

Tuesday 8th October - Year 11 mock interviews

Thursday 10th October - Post 16 open evening

Tuesday 15th October - Thursday 17th October - Battlefields trip

Academy holiday - Monday 21st October - Friday 1st November 2024

Wednesday 13th November - Year 9 AMP evening

Tuesday 19th November - Year 9 PD/CEIAG day

Tuesday 26th November - Parent Forum Meeting

Wednesday 4th December - Friday 6th December - Year 10 religious studies London trip

Wednesday 11th December and Thursday 12th December - Year 7 Christingle service

Wednesday 18th December - Christmas dinner day

Thursday 19th December - Year 7 theatre trip - A Christmas Carol

Academy holiday - Monday 23rd December 2024 - Friday 3rd January 2025

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