



# NATIONAL CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

## Advent Newsletter

### Christmas address from Mr Brailsford – Headteacher

As we come towards the end of a challenging 2021 let us focus on family, festivity and the New Year!

At National we have had so much to celebrate! Our students and staff have again adapted so well to any changes made, attendance remains high and therefore, most importantly, students are learning and moving forward in their development. Extra-curricular activities have started again and we have been very successful with sports teams both with home and away fixtures, in all years and including girls and boys. More children have had the opportunities to go on trips and visits and we hope to continue these positive steps in 2022.

Over Christmas let's all focus on the positives of the last year. We should stick together and look to protect each other. That is actually the message of Christmas isn't it? Love and ultimately sacrifice for the greater good. Showing love to others brings us closer to God and goodness. Christmas should be a time of spiritual reflection and celebration. It is a time when most of us get some chance to sit down, think about our lives and get some focus back on what is actually important. We spend all year seemingly going at a million miles an hour and for a few days, it is time to put the brakes on and press reset. I certainly intend to turn my laptop and phone off and enjoy some family time while we have the opportunity. History has taught us that we never know what is around the corner and every day counts.

I would like to thank every member of the National community from the bottom of my heart for their support. The difficult decisions, the weather at times, the ever-changing guidance, the vaccinations and testing, exam cancellations, remote learning, home schooling and at times isolation! Yet despite all of this, we have got through this year together and can take a deep breath and look back with pride. I see children regularly leaving our site safe, smiling and with their friends laughing and when you see that as a Headteacher nothing motivates you more.

Please have a brilliant Christmas with your loved ones, take care and enjoy the rest of this newsletter, which will return as a regular feature again in the New Year.

Happy Christmas!



# 'Life in all its fullness' John 10:10

## Christmas Tree Festival



During November things began to get festive in 7H as they began preparations for the St. Mary's Christmas Tree Festival. The students put in a lot of effort into creating decorations using a range of materials following the theme of angels. On the 1st December the class walked to St Mary's to put up the tree and show off their creations alongside other members of the Hucknall community.

## Christmas Dinner

What a wonderful occasion this week! We had our annual Christmas dinner for students and welcomed year 10 and year 11 on Tuesday, year 7 on Wednesday and year 8 and year 9 on Thursday, served across three days rather than the usual one. There was a lovely atmosphere in Archie's with music playing and students enjoying a traditional Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. Thank you to our team of colleagues who prepared the lovely food and also to our team of helpers, teachers, support staff and governors, who helped to serve students their festive roast!



## Festive Author Visit



Some of our year 7 students were treated to a virtual author visit last week from Catherine Doyle. Catherine spoke to us about her festive book *Miracle on Ebenezer Street*, a modern retelling of *A Christmas Carol*. She also told us about some Christmas traditions around the world and answered questions from our students about her writing.

## Christingle Services

Our year 7 students had a great time at our Christingle services this year, reflecting on how we can better look after the beautiful world God created. Students made their own Christingles and when at church had the opportunity to light them, whilst hearing about how Jesus is the light of the world.



## Christmas Concert

We were delighted to be able to hold this year's Christmas service at St Mary Magdalene's Church on Thursday 16th December, after the 2020 concert was held virtually.

This year's performers have all put themselves forward, with some gentle persuasion here and there. It is a chance for some of our talented students at National to showcase their musical abilities, for some of them it will be the first live performance they have ever done in front of an audience. I would like to thank all who have supported the planning of this year's service especially to the Rev. Helen Chantry for allowing us to use St Mary's.

I hope you all have a merry Christmas and I look forward to welcoming you all back to future performances.

*Mr C Blundell- Teacher of Music and Musical Enrichment*



## Year 7 Theatre Trip



On Thursday 16th December, our year 7 students were all invited on a trip to Derby Theatre. They saw an adaptation of Treasure Island inspired by Robert Louis Stevenson's classic tale of buried treasure and buccaneers. It was a fabulous production with cleverly integrated British Sign Language.

## Focus on... Extracurricular Clubs

**Creative Writing Club** is a safe and welcoming space for students of all year groups to share ideas, learn new skills and write freely. The club has a lively and exciting atmosphere, where students feel comfortable to be themselves and write with likeminded peers. Students have spent this term working on fictional pieces to be entered into the Daunt Books Short Story Competition, however will often engage with 10-minute writing challenges, or create profiles for the characters in their stories. It has been wonderful to see students of different year groups supporting each other and thriving in this environment.

Miss Hyde runs Creative Writing Club every Tuesday, 3:15pm-3:50pm, in Room 24

For a full list of our extracurricular clubs, visit our academy website:  
<https://www.nationalacademy.org.uk/enrichment>

# Sporting Fixtures

## Girls football

This has been a fantastic season so far for the girls' teams. Our years 7, 8 and 9 girls play quarter final matches after Christmas, and our year 10/11 team will compete in a semi final. All our girls teams are also in the quarter finals of the South Nottinghamshire Schools Cup and are due to play these in February 2022.

I am so proud of the hard work and dedication these girls have had week in, week out. They will have earned a well-deserved rest over Christmas– just not too much as we have quarter and semi-finals to win!

*Mrs Jones- Head of PACE and Associate Leadership Team*

## Boys Football

Our boys football teams, although they have played some tough games, have done themselves proud in their cup competitions. Year 9 saw a fantastic achievement when they won 8-0 at home against Quarrydale. Years 7 and 8 will be taking the opportunity to play some friendlies later in the year which should prepare them well for next years cup fixtures. Our year 11 boys are looking forward to their upcoming quarter final match in the New Year.

Overall we have seen some really strong displays and some real achievements both personally and for our academy. Well done to all of those that have played so far, their attitude and behaviour has been outstanding.

*Mr Roberts - Assistant Head of PACE*



# Head of Year Highlights

**Year 7-** Mr Gilham - Head of year 7 and Mrs Soltysik - Assistant head of year 7

Year 7 have had an impressive first term at National considering how much learning time they have missed and reduced transition package due to the global situation. Students have shown a resilience and a determination to be proud of, demonstrating an outstanding attitude to their own learning, behaving well in lessons, being supportive of those around them and respectful of the wider academy community.

Stars of the term are: Rebecca C, Taye A, Ava B, Eleanor W, Olivia J, Hope B, Kalia A and Freya C.



**Year 8 -** Mr Mistry - Head of year 8

Year 8 have demonstrated a superbly positive attitude this term and have made huge efforts in their behaviour and attitude. Year 8 is officially the most punctual year group in the academy. Keep up the amazing effort and positive attitude and let's make the next term even better!

Stars of the term are: Francesca S, Keaton E, Lanie H, Marley H, Hollie R, Akua-Adooma M, Gabrielle S, Daniel N, Kelsey E, and Harry C. The total amount of credit points achieved by these 10 students is around 10% of the entire year group!



**Year 9-** Ms Craven – Head of year 9

Year 9s attitude to learning has been impressive as they have returned to school this year. They have had a tremendous amount of disruption to their schooling yet they have returned with a positive attitude and focus. Year 9 have spent this term focusing on kindness and on our Arch value of Respect. We continue to strive to be the very best we can be.

Stars of the term are: Ava M and Dylan F. There is not a single student in the year who hasn't achieved positive feedback from their teachers this year. Every year 9 should be proud of themselves.



# Head of Year Highlights

**Year 10** - Mrs News -  
Assistant head of year 10

Year 10 have collectively earned the highest number of credits in the first half term, which is an amazing achievement- 17206 credits which is fantastic. Considering the amount of disruption to their education over the past two years, the year group have started their GCSEs well, and are showing their determination to succeed already.

Stars of the term are: Cordelia F, Lilyanne D, Callum S, Grace M, Brayden F, Alicia H, Jonah W, William W, Emily C, and Jayden M

**Year 11** - Mrs Hopkin - Head of year 11

Year 11's attitude towards and behaviour during their mock exams this month has been fantastic. They have shown real resilience and determination despite the disruption they have faced. Stay on track, work hard and we will continue to support and challenge you so you can achieve your best next year.

Stars of the term are: George K, Riley P, Ethan G, Abigail M.

## HSFC

This term at HSFC has been wonderfully productive and busy! Students have returned to the classroom with enthusiasm and our LRC study centre is busy throughout the day and after school.

Year 13 have sent their applications to university, with many already received interviews and offers. They have also had the valuable opportunity of experiencing mock interviews with local employers. Our student leaders have led in creating our Remembrance Day displays and fundraising for Children in Need; with our 'Sudsey for Pudsey' car wash raising over £200. Individual tutor groups have made progress with their charity and social action projects for the year. We have supported the World Wildlife Fund and raised enough money with the cake sale hosted by 13Bridges raising enough funds to sponsor both a panda and a polar bear. 13Boole's Isabella H has, for the second year, collected donations of gifts and treats for young people on local hospital wards this Christmas.

As we approach the end of the term and calendar year, HSFC has become wonderfully festive, Students have decorated the canteen beautifully and our Christmas lunch felt particularly positive at the end of a very strange couple of years.

*J Cliffman - Head of HSFC*



## Mock exams

This term we have run a full mock season for all students in year 11, 12 and 13. This was an opportunity for all students to show off their learning, knowledge and understanding from their courses so far. The mock exams were conducted by invigilators in the same conditions as external exams in order to give students experience for a real exam season. The information and data from these mocks will provide invaluable evidence for teachers to plan the remainder of the academic year in preparation for the summers external exams. The feedback students will receive and their reaction to feedback will be essential to driving their progress towards success in the summer. All students behaved in an exemplary manner and were clearly giving the mock season the gravity it deserved.



## In my classroom...

**Mr Mahy discusses how the new multi-functional interactive smart screens are being used in classrooms.**

'The new boards offer two main benefits to teaching in my classroom; visual clarity and organisation of ideas. The boards are high definition and fitted with anti-glare technology which avoids any prior issues we may have had with the winter's sun glaring off the board. This removes barriers to learning and allows us as teachers to maintain a good pace with visual clarity in mind. Further to this; the ability to use the smart whiteboard in conjunction with 'graphic organisers' means we can effectively question and organise ideas in a way that just 'makes sense' to the students. Because the boards are using android technology, we can also elaborate and explore new areas of questioning through the use of a browser. We can quickly switch between tabs and annotate pictures, diagrams and infographics, supporting our discussions in an effortless way that would previously have been much harder. Finally, integrated timers on whiteboards really helps us as teachers to maintain high expectations and give structure to pupils in lesson.'

**Miss Hunt talks about how we are using visualisers in school.**

'The new visualisers in the classroom means that we are able to live mark and share excellent examples of student work. We can celebrate successes and also model how we might improve our work further. Students find the use of their examples of work empowering and we can model FLASH marking and what the skills look like in the student work, this ultimately means students are getting much more feedback in the classroom and seeing modelled examples of what their work should look like.'

# Staffing Update

We are delighted to introduce the following colleagues:

Miss B Surgey teaching History      Mr T Horrocks-Taylor teaching History  
Miss G Allcock teaching Food Technology      Mr O Perschke teaching Engineering  
Miss L Palmer-Coole teaching Science      Mrs R Hooper - Receptionist  
Ms K Oakden- Midday Supervisor      Ms C Meakin- Behaviour Mentor  
Mr R Wibberley - Science Technician

## Dates to remember

Tuesday 4th January 2022 INSET Day and LFT testing slots

Wednesday 5th January 2022 return to school

Wednesday 12th January 2022 Year 11 mock results

Thursday 13th January 2022 Year 12/13 mock results

Thursday 20th January Year 13 AMP evening

Tuesday 25th January 2022 Year 11 AMP evening

Thursday 3rd February 2022 Year 12 AMP evening

Wednesday 9th February 2022 Academy Show

*Friday 11th February 2022 - INSET Day*

*Academy holiday- Monday 14th February 2022 - Friday 18th February 2022*

Wednesday 23rd February Year 10 AMP evening

Wednesday 9th March Year 9 options evening

Thursday 17th March 2022 Year 8 AMP evening

Tuesday 19th March 2022 Year 7 AMP evening

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

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