



NATIONAL
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ACADEMY



Lent Newsletter

Easter address from Mrs Stones – Assistant Headteacher - SENCo

As we approach the end of this term, it is a timely moment to pause and reflect on the incredible work that our students have achieved this term. We have so many reasons to celebrate. As a Christian community we are nearing the holiest festival of the year- Easter.

Having journeyed through Lent, we have been able- in so many ways- to reflect on our journey with Jesus. Lent, for many Christians, is a time of reflection, a time to readdress their spiritual journey, a time to reconnect with God. We had a poignant opportunity to do this in school during Big Questions Week- led by our chaplaincy team, where each student was given the chance to explore big questions away from the classroom.

Easter is of course, the pinnacle of our Christian calendar, where we not only reflect on the pain and suffering of Jesus on the cross, but also in the joy of the resurrection and fresh start that he offers us on Easter Sunday.

This too is true of our ethos here at National Church of England Academy. As an inclusive academy, we celebrate the many differences that a community of 1200 individuals brings, whilst being united in our mission for us all to experience 'Life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)

The Inclusion team sits at the heart of the school, both geographically and as a philosophy. I have the privilege as SENCo to lead a team including Ms Davies, Teacher of SEND; Ms Meakin- Senior TA; Ms Harris, Mrs Tollervey, Mrs McDermott and Ms Severn, who support our students as we seek to break down any barriers that exist in helping our young people achieve their best. As a team we offer a range of support for all areas of needs and consistently adapt our practice to try to enable young people to flourish.

On 2nd April it is world ASD Awareness Day. Though the academy will obviously be closed, we will be raising students' understanding of neurodiversity through a wider understanding and celebration of ASD. Also, I will again be hosting a SENCo coffee morning on 21st April, with a morning and after school option time slot for selected parents of students with SEND to book on to. It will be a great opportunity to see the Inclusion area, have an informal chat with myself as SENCo, and Mr Bingham our CEIAG lead.

Until then, I wish you all a blessed and restful Easter holiday.



'Life in all its fullness' John 10:10

National Comes Alive!

Wednesday 9th February was the evening that National sprang back to life with our first school production in over 2 years. The show was a fantastic experience and saw students from years 7-11 perform. The show had a circus theme and there were dancers, singers, instrumentalists and some acting. It was lovely to welcome so many parents and staff to watch the show and every seat in the hall was full. The production team says a massive well done to all involved and are already in discussions as to what our production will be next year. Listen out for when auditions will be held in the new academic year.

Ivy in year 9 said "it was really fun rehearsing with my National family and Mrs Case, Mrs Chambers, Miss Austin and Mr Blundell were really supportive."

Eva in year 9 said "The teachers were really nice and supportive, and the rehearsals were really fun."

Favour in year 9 said "the rehearsing was fun, and everyone was nice. I really enjoyed it!"

Lily in year 9 said "the teachers really helped me to become a lot more confident. I had a lot of fun!"

Aimee in year 7 said "It was a very good experience, and no one judged you."

Gracie in year 7 said "It was very fun to do and I made a lot of new friends as well!"

Mr C Blundell- Teacher of Music and Musical Enrichment



World Book Day

On Thursday 3rd March the Academy celebrated World Book Day, with many of our staff members dressing up as book characters. These costumes stimulated some great discussion between students and staff about why they chose these characters and why these books are so great.

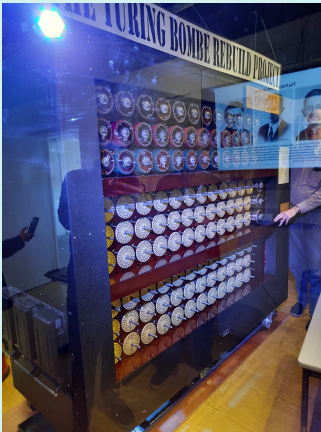
World Book Day is celebrated every year to promote reading for pleasure, something our Academy works hard to celebrate every day. £1 book tokens were also handed out throughout the week, so students could exchange them for a free World Book Day book.



A Brief History of Computing

On Friday 4th December, Dr Bardell and Mr Lee took a group of Year 12 and 13 computer science students to Bletchley Park to discover the history of computing.

The remarkable thing about the history of computing is that, although technologies change, the underlying architecture and concepts still hold today, almost 80 years after the discovery of the first digital computers. Students were able to apply their understanding of assembly language and hardware components, including the accumulator, memory and control unit.



The students had the opportunity to experience a classroom of the 80s and they created a computer programme using BASIC to create a snake game.

They observed how the developments of computer technologies and software enabled computers and algorithms to be developed to break encrypted messages from World War II.

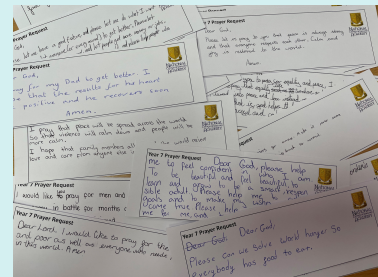
Mr Lee - Teacher of Computer Science



Education Sunday

We supported the Education Sunday service at St. Mary Magdalene's Church, alongside Hucknall National Church of England Primary School. Our Head Students gave readings from the Bible, our year 7 students wrote prayers and Mrs. Wall gave a short talk about how we live out our Christian vision and values as a school.

Mrs Wall - Assistant Headteacher



HSFC Trip to Peterhouse College Cambridge

On Wednesday 23rd February the Y12 students who are a part of the HE+ project visited Peterhouse College, Cambridge.

This visit allowed students to tour the facilities, meet current students, take testers in their preferred academic study areas and gain insight and advice on making competitive applications to top universities including Oxford and Cambridge. The programme will continue through this academic year to support students in making the strongest UCAS applications possible in the autumn term.



J Cliffman - Head of HSFC



Year 10 Work Experience

It's always a bit nerve wracking dipping your toe into a new venture, you're never entirely sure whether your heading for a win or a headache but was it ever in doubt?

Once again, our students rose to the challenge, namely the year 10's and work experience! As you can imagine, against a backdrop of a hopefully waning global pandemic, finding placements was never going to be an easy task, yet over 100 students secured just that. Running from Monday to Wednesday students were given the opportunity to experience a working environment from the inside. The reports back from employers have been nothing but complimentary with words like punctual, polite, smart, helpful, intuitive cropping up in emails over and over again. We should never underestimate the power of these 'soft' skills, more than one student nearly landed a proper job, so well done to you all.

The students who remained in school spent the three days off timetable looking at the different careers and real-life skills needed in the working world. Careers in a variety of subjects were considered, CV and letter writing were undertaken, as well as job and college research on the internet. Maths lessons on money were a particular hit. So, a huge thank you to all the staff involved with a particular mention to Jo Carr for tireless admin support and all those who either made phone calls or took or covered lessons but especially a big thank you to our students who once again were outstanding;

here's to next year!

Mr Bingham - Careers Lead and Teacher of Social Sciences

Careers Fair

Wednesday 23rd March the academy once again, (after a rude pandemic interruption) staged its annual careers fair. Careers fairs are scary things to organise as you never quite know who is going to turn up! Seventeen companies and colleges had agreed to attend with thirteen arriving on the day. The big guns were out in force, the RAF, army and NHS joined us along with a local entrepreneur: Mamajewels. Whitemeadow, one of the country's leading furniture manufacturers were joined by their training provider

Webs training and colleges Confetti and Brackenhurst joined us once again. Cllr

Wilmott from Ashfield Council was a huge hit with the students and Ask Apprenticeships were on hand to advise students about everything apprenticeship related. Another big hit with students, and a certain head teacher, was Nottingham Forest who brought with them a particularly impressive piece of silverware out of the cabinet and yes even though I am a life-long Notts County fan I had my photo taken with it...seemed rude not to! Once again students were well behaved with more than one telling me their career path had been decided. A huge thank you to you all and here's to a bigger and better career fair next year!

Mr Bingham - Careers Lead and Teacher of Social Sciences



SENCo Interview

As part of our showcase of SEND at the National Academy, we asked the students of the nurture class to pose questions to our SENCo, Mrs Stones on her role and inspirations.

What's the part of the job you most enjoy?

I have been teaching for nearly 24 years! What I love most about my role is the fact no two days are ever the same. Each day brings fresh challenges and wonderful opportunities to work with young people. I love the passion of teenagers and being a part of their journey as they flourish into young adults!

What's the most difficult part?

There just never seem to be enough hours in the day! Trying to negotiate and creatively respond to all the different scenarios I deal with is both a difficulty and a blessing.

Did you want to be a SENCo when you were at school?

In fairness, when I was at school SENCos hadn't been made a statutory part of the school system! (I'm really that old!) But as I have grown in teaching, it is being able to help individuals, that has kept me motivated. Eight years into the role, I couldn't imagine a more exciting place to be!

Who do you most look up to and why?

I'm not a great one for 'looking up' to someone! I have always been brought up to be a strong independent person, who should always strive to do their best. There are so many wonderful 'role models' in the world. People who step out in faith, and fight against injustice- they are people I admire!

If you could change one thing about schools, what would it be?

I think the one thing I would change if I could, would be to ensure we have even more talented adults working here to make sure that all students have a key mentor to catch up with, to speak to, to be mentored by and supported. Here at the academy, I think we do this well.... but if money were no object.... that would make schools perfect!

CEO visits our girls' football teams

This year the girls' football teams are doing incredibly well. Mr Parris the CEO of the Minster Trust for Education (MITRE) visited the Academy to see the girls and celebrate their successes. He wished them the best of luck in their upcoming games.

In the Nottinghamshire School Cup the girls have reached the finals in the year 7, year 7 & 8, year 8 & 9, and year 10 & 11 teams.

In the South Nottinghamshire Schools Cup the year 8 & 9 and year 9 & 10 reached the quarter finals, whilst the year 7 & 8 team are in the semi-finals.

A huge thank you to Mr Parris for taking the time to come and speak to the girls about their wonderful achievements.

Mrs Jones- Head of PACE and Associate Leadership Team



Head of Year Highlights

Year 7- Mr Gilham - Head of year 7

Year 7 have gone from strength to strength this academic year, and in the run up to Easter they continue to work hard and show an impressive attitude to their learning. As a year group they are averaging over 1000 credits each week.

Congratulations to Rebecca C, Taye A, Ava B, Evie T, Olivia J, Hope B, Kalia A, Roman D, and Loki H who are the students of the term in their respective tutor groups this term. We also have 115 students (over half of the year group!) who have worked impressively hard through the whole term without picking up a single debit. In addition, there are 47 students who have 100% attendance with no late marks this term!

In extracurricular activities, the year 7 girls football team are in the county cup final. Many of them play in the year 8 team who are also in the county cup final and south Notts semi-final. Year 7 girls got bronze in the Ashfield netball competition and year 7 boys futsal (non-football team players) came 4th in Ashfield.

Well done to all of year 7, we hope you have an enjoyable and a restful Easter break, and look forward to seeing you in the new term where the excellent work can continue.

Year 8 - Mr Mistry - Head of year 8

Congratulations again to Francesca S, Keaton E, Akua-Adomaa M, Lanie H, Hollie R, and Gabriella S who all remain in the top ten for credits in year 8 so far! As well as these, an extra well done to L'la D, Marley H, and Betsy R who have got themselves in the top ten again! Well done!

These pupils are fantastic examples of how our ARCH values are demonstrated within National, keep it up! Over 50% of year 8 have not received more than 1 debit all year, a fantastic achievement that shows again the excellent standards and respect that our year 8 have for their learning! We are also still the most punctual group in the school, by MILES! Keep up the fantastic effort and let's make the summer term our best one yet!



Year 9- Ms Craven – Head of year 9

Lent term has seen Year 9 continue to strive for excellence in their attitude to learning and behaviour. This has again been reflected in the number of credits received as a year group – as it stands at the time of writing Year 9 have now accumulated 42726 credits – this is an outstanding achievement and I continue to be very proud of them as a year group. This number of positive credits places Year 9 in second place, after Year 7, in terms of overall credits this year.

The students with the most credits this term:

Emily M of 9B with 87 credits and Evan J of 9B with 86. Year 9 have received their AMP Reports this term and Mr Veasey (Assistant Head) has led on the Horsforth Quadrant. Most students have had assemblies specifically aimed at their focus area of Aspire, Action, Accelerate and Ambition. It has been pleasing to see how well they have engaged with the support being given to them. Year 9 Options Evening allowed you as parents back into school and it was lovely to see so many of you able to attend the evening in March. I hope that Year 9 will continue to strive for excellence in their attitude to learning and behaviour as we look forward to the summer term.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Easter break.



Head of Year Highlights



Year 10 - Mrs Newns -
Assistant Head of year 10

Year 10s have shown a positive attitude and work ethic this term. Many pupils spent three days out on work experience, learning new skills and experiencing what it might be like to work in their chosen field. I personally spoke to some employers who were very pleased with our pupils and how they were conducting themselves at their organisations. Pupils who stayed in school learnt skills such as how to write CV's and completed this to a very high standard. This has given pupils a renewed motivation to do well in their studies as they now have a goal to work towards.

Year 10 collectively have 29134 credits. Congratulations to Alicia H, Jonah W, Grace M, Freya J, Cordelia F, Zachary S, Lilyanne D, William W, Georgina S, and Zengii U for being the top 10 credit earners in the year group. This is through their constant hard work and going above and beyond expectations on a regular basis.

Year 11 - Mr Richardson -
Acting Head of year 11

Year 11 have continued to show an amazing attitude and really knuckled down for their in-class assessments this Easter with their exams in mind in May. A special well done to the highest credit earners during that period: George K, Riley P, Elizabeth S, Amelia G and Elena C - well done!

Year 11's sporting achievements have been astounding both inside and outside of school: National U16 Girls Team are now in the County Cup Final after beating Toot Hill 5-1 in their Semi Final. Cole P is playing in a Showcase Game for Lincoln FC U15 against Leicester on the 29th March; Charlotte L has been representing Aston Villa U16s on Saturdays and has been playing with the U21s on Sundays and Wednesdays, winning every match. Aston Villa U16 now have a Cup Match at Loughborough Stadium in April.



Reading Newsletter

At National Academy, we strongly believe that Reading for Pleasure is a very valuable part of your child's education. As reading is a huge aspect of all parts of the curriculum, there is a clear link between achievement and progress; we believe that the more a child reads, the more likely they are to be successful! However, it is important that children find books that interest them so that they enjoy their reading time. Pixl is The National Academy's partner in supporting students in many different ways, including this reading newsletter we would like to share with you. The newsletter includes a selection of books they might enjoy, with QR codes that link to the author reading extracts or talking about their books. Happy Reading!

Mr Barnett - Literacy Coordinator and Teacher of English

[Key stage 3 and 4 Pixl Reading Newsletter](#)

Sporting Fixtures

County Cup Finalists!

What a year our girls' teams have had.... We are in the Nottinghamshire County Cup finals with every year group we have entered this year. So, that's our year 7, year 7/8, year 8/9 and year 10/11 girls' teams.

I am so proud of these girls, what a fantastic year.

The year 7/8 team have also reached the semi final of the South Nottinghamshire Schools Cup.

Good luck in the finals girls.

Our year 9 boys' football team have reached the semi final of the South Notts competition.

Netball

Our year 9 and year 10 girls' Netball teams played against Ashfield School. Year 9 won 24-6 and year 10 won 23-1.

Our year 7 girls' team competed in the Ashfield District Competition and played a number of games. They achieved a bronze medal which was fantastic in their first ever tournament. Well done girls!

Inclusive Sports

Two teams entered the Inclusive Indoor Athletics Competition, achieving a Gold and a Bronze medal.

Mrs Jones- Head of PACE and Associate Leadership Team



Faculty Blog - Languages

The languages faculty is continuing to promote effective communication within the school and as a faculty are focused on the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening.

It has been a pleasure this year to establish theatre trips for year 7 and 180 year 7 students attended a performance of Treasure Island at Derby Theatre. The performance was a mix of song, dance and it was fabulous to enjoy live theatre again with the students so hopefully there will be more of this to come.

Reading is at the heart of the language's curriculum and all key stage three students have the opportunity to read at the beginning of their English and literacy lessons. We use the Accelerated Reader Programme to ensure our students are all reading appropriately challenging texts and Mrs Prestwood, our librarian, continues to monitor and celebrate the achievements of our students as we strive for word millionaires. We continue to enjoy a fully stocked library and Mrs Prestwood is constantly refreshing our stock to ensure our students have access to a wide range of engaging texts. We also have the opportunity to request books from the library service so students are encouraged to ask their teacher or Mrs Prestwood if there is something they would like to see on the shelves that we currently do not have.

Reading for pleasure is a gift everyone should enjoy and during our reading lessons staff actively engage with students about their reading habits and their likes and dislikes to model how reading is individual and we all like different things when read. We try to support students in finding the right book and we do encourage parents and carers to discuss their reading with their child and to use the Renaissance home connect to see how their child is getting on with the Accelerated Reader programme. Congratulations to our word millionaires so far this year, who have each read over one million words each since September, Sebastian C, Isabel D, Isabelle M, Taye A in year 7 and Oliver S, Jasmine S and Lauren P in year 8.

As part of the curriculum, all year 7s have had the opportunity to read The Hunger Games and have really enjoyed the dystopian novel and getting to know the characters of Katniss and Peeta as they strive to become victors against all the odds. Year 8 have had a gothic treat with the playscript of Dracula developing an understanding of how scripts develop content differently to the novel and year 9 have explored rebellion in their study of Lord of the Flies as an island without adults descends into chaos.

In the modern world where technology dominates, it is important as a faculty we recognise moving image and how as consumers we digest text in new and evolving mediums and therefore explore how language in everyday situations influences us as readers and how we distinguish fact and understand bias in all that we consume and read. It is also interesting for students to explore in drama how casting and interpretation influences how much we enjoy a text as it is changed from page to screen.

Get in touch...

If you have any questions about the languages curriculum, ways for students and parents to get involved, or would like to ask about extra-curricular opportunities, please drop Miss Hunt, our faculty head, an email at:
chunt@nationalacademy.org.uk



In My Classroom...

My year 11 students appreciate me walking through exam questions step by step using the visualisers*. There is almost a satisfaction in seeing me do the heavy lifting on a question and so helps them to buy in to the work, and I find it an effective way to model problem solving and resilience in challenging questions.

The second way I use the visualisers is when I have asked students to draw a cartoon or comic strip of a conceptually challenging idea. For example, in Science I normally describe a displacement reaction as the "scary" (more reactive) element coming along and "stealing" something from a "less scary" (less reactive) element. I encourage students to imagine this happening, and draw it out as a cartoon. When students get to show it to others using the visualiser, not only do they have more pride in what they do, but it also encourages others to see the process in a way they perhaps hadn't imagined before.

Miss E Stokes -Assistant Head of Faculty - Science

**A visualiser is a small desktop camera which enables the teacher to show student work on the interactive screen.*

Nott Alone

Nott Alone is a website with local mental health advice & help for young people in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, all in one place. If you are aged under 25, are a parent or carer, or a professional that supports young people, you can find information, advice and where to go to get help locally.

nottalone.org.uk

#SLEEP1000 Campaign

We supported the #SLEEP1000 campaign to supply 1000 sleeping bags and thermal blankets to a team in Krakow who are co-ordinating efforts to accommodate the refugees arriving in their city from the conflict in Ukraine.



Staffing Update

We are delighted to introduce the following colleagues who have joined us at The National Academy since Christmas:

Ms C Davies: teacher of SEND
Mr C Ridley: IT technician

Dates to remember

Tuesday 19th April – Students return to school
Thursday 21st April – SENCO coffee morning & afternoon (for selected parents)
Monday 25th April – Year 9 vaccinations - DTP/ACWY and HPV, and year 11 vaccinations - DTP/ACWY
Tuesday 26th April – Year 12 & 13 art and photography trip to London

Monday 2nd May – Bank holiday

Thursday 5th May – Year 10 photography trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park
Monday 9th May – Year 11, 12 and 13 external exam season begins (until Friday 24th June)
Tuesday 17th May - progress2Uni session run by Oxbridge for selected year 10 students
Thursday 19th May – Year 8 HPV vaccinations
Friday 20th May – Year 13 leaving service
Tuesday 24th May – Voluntary student Holy Communion

Academy Holiday Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June

Monday 6th June – Year 7 assessments begin
Tuesday 7th June - Year 9 Holocaust Memorial Centre trip
Monday 13th June – Year 10 mock exams and year 8/9 assessments begin
Thursday 16th June – Year 7 Aspire session with Cambridge University
Thursday 23rd June – Year 8 trip to Nottingham University
Thursday 23rd June – Year 11 Prom at Goosedale
Friday 24th June – Last year 11 exam
Monday 27th June – Year 10 Geography fieldwork trip
Tuesday 28th June – Charity Day
Wednesday 29th June – Year 11 celebration service
Thursday 30th June – Year 8 trip to Nottingham University
Friday 1st July – Year 10 Geography fieldwork trip
Sunday 3rd July – Hagg Farm residential trip (until Friday 8th July)
Monday 4th July – Year 11 applicants to HSFC sixth form induction day
Monday 4th July – Year 12 work experience week (until Friday 8th July)
Tuesday 5th July – Parent Forum meeting 5.30pm
Wednesday 6th July – Enrichment Day
Thursday 7th July – Arts Day
Friday 8th July – Vaccinations mop-up session
Monday 11th July – Years 7 and 8 Science and Art week - biological specimens during lessons
Wednesday 13th July – Operation Orphan day for year 12
Wednesday 13th July - Year 6 into year 7 welcome day 1
Thursday 14th July- Year 6 into year 7 welcome day 2
Friday 15th July- Year 6 into year 7 welcome day 3
Tuesday 19th July – Year 6 into year 7 transition evening for parents and guardians

Wednesday 27th July – Students last day at school
Friday 2nd September – New year 7 first day
Monday 5th September – All year groups return to school

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