



NottinghamshireLive EDUCATION AWARDS 2019

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**NGA
Runners-up**

Beating the odds:

■ **Mariam Taj, Nottingham Girls' Academy**
 Exceptional Year 10 student Mariam Taj has exceeded all educational targets at Nottingham Girls' Academy - including 100% attendance - as well as leaping into a host of extracurricular activities, from supporting the refugee programme to serving as a guide on open days.
 Mariam does all this despite living with dwarfism - which can make day-to-day activities, such as getting around the site, much more onerous.
 Even when she lost her father, she faced her grief with a level of maturity beyond her years and was determined to honour his memory by living as full a life as possible.

Most Improved Student:

■ **Shannan Mullings, Nottingham Girls' Academy**
 HAVING struggled to find her feet at her previous school, Shannan Mullings came to Nottingham Girls' Academy in Year 9, showing incredible resilience and a fierce determination to turn her fortunes around, despite battling a number of personal issues.
 With a new maturity, respect and appreciation for the opportunities presented to her, Shannan's hard work paid off this year when she collected her GCSE results with her mum, achieving grade four and above in all subjects - leading to tears of joy all round.
 Shannan is now in the sixth form studying for A levels - something she never thought she was capable of - with ambitions to be a PE teacher.

Support Staff of the Year:

■ **Danni Harper, Nottingham Girls' Academy**
 IN her role as emotional literacy support assistant (ELSA) at Nottingham Girls' Academy, Danni Harper has always gone above and beyond to engage with students and help them through difficulties which can often prove barriers to learning - ensuring they thrive and succeed both inside and outside school.
 She has continued to carry on this vital work even after her partner was diagnosed with cancer, spending several nights a week living on the hospital ward and caring for him, then coming straight to school to do her job to exactly the same high standards.



Headteacher of the Year:

■ **David Tungate, Nottingham Girls' Academy**
 SINCE he became principal of Nottingham Girls' Academy in August 2017, David Tungate has created a nurturing environment which has seen results improve dramatically to above the national average, placing the school as one of the top performing in the city. Under his leadership, the academy has been presented with a series of awards, including Careers Mark and a British Council Twinning Award. It also won the 2018 'business in a box' flash challenge set by Dragons' Den star Peter Jones and his Enterprise Academy. Colleagues say David is kind and fair, with a strong moral compass, valuing skills and talents in and out of the classroom.

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

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