



Nottingham Girls' Academy

Newsletter
December 2020

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We believe in creating a community empowered with the qualities, skills and qualifications to enter the next phase of life with confidence and ambition

Key Dates

What's coming up?

Spring Term 2020/2021

Pupils return on Monday 4 January 2021

Year 9 Parents' Evening - Wednesday 13 January

Last Day of Half Term: Friday 12 February

Half term: Monday 15 February—Friday 19 February

Pupils return on Monday 22 February

Year 10 and Year 12 Parents' evening: Wednesday 24 March

Last Day of Term: Friday 26 March

Easter holidays: Monday 29 March —Friday 9 April

Summer Term 2020/21

Pupils return on Monday 12 April

Year 7 Parents' Evening— Wednesday 21 April

Monday 3 May: May Day holiday

Last Day of Half Term: Friday 28 May

Half term: Monday 31 May—Friday 4 June

Pupils return on Monday 7 June

Year 8 Parents' evening: Wednesday 30 June

Last day of term: Friday 16 July

Have we got your correct contact details?

Please complete the form available on the NGA website if you need to update your contact details or change your address:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=WnSRoNi3ek2yphNZBT1FECLv4nPzyA1AgzuEljApNvBUQ0lWNUY3OUFGODI4MldZN0lYMVJWWkVLOS4u>

Operating Procedures

By Mr Tungate, Principal

Pupils have done a commendable job this term in following our operating procedures by sticking to their bubbles and zones. However, it has meant that some pupils have not had access to science laboratories, PC rooms and specialist technology rooms and this has an impact on the curriculum we can deliver.

Given that it is still not clear when we will be able to fully return to normal, we are keen to make some adjustments to the way we are currently operating to further improve the delivery of our curriculum and ensure pupils are not further disadvantaged by this pandemic.

All of our planning is in line with the latest guidance from the DfE and Public Health England. The main changes will be the implementation of a one-way system around the school buildings and some different cleaning procedures to sanitise classroom surfaces in between lessons. We will retain staggered arrival and departure times, staggered lunch times, separate outside zones for pupils at break and lunch time and use of face coverings.

Full details will be available on our website soon. We will notify you as soon as they are published and we will be available to answer any queries and listen to any concerns.

The success or failure of any of our operating procedures relies on our pupils carefully following the rules for our region's Covid Alert Tier and the Hands, Face, Space, Be Alert guidance in school.

Parking and Road Safety

A photograph of the Nottingham Girls' Academy entrance with a large text overlay containing parking and road safety instructions. The background shows a road with trees and a sign for the academy.


Nottingham Girls' Academy

Strive. Improve. Enjoy.

1. The independence and exercise your daughter would gain in making her own way home are important life skills. Please consider whether this would be a possibility.
2. If you do need to collect your daughter, please try to park well away from the main entrances to the academy and the junction between Robins Wood Road and Prestwood Drive.

Parking further along the road towards Aspley Lane would really help.

3. Please do not park in front of residents' houses. We have had incidents where people have been asked to move so residents can access their drives and have been abusive in return. This is totally unacceptable and an appalling example to be setting our pupils.
4. Please do not stop in the middle of the road to allow your daughter to get into your car or make U-turns. Robins Wood Road is busy at this time and people get frustrated when they are delayed. This can lead to erratic decision-making and driving; further endangering our pupils.
5. Please do not mount the pavement near pedestrians. Many people do this to try to ease congestion but it further endangers pupils.
6. Please be considerate of other road users. We have had situations when people have blocked the road rather than giving way to other vehicles, thinking only of themselves.

A small version of the Nottingham Girls' Academy logo, featuring a stylized purple and white circular emblem.

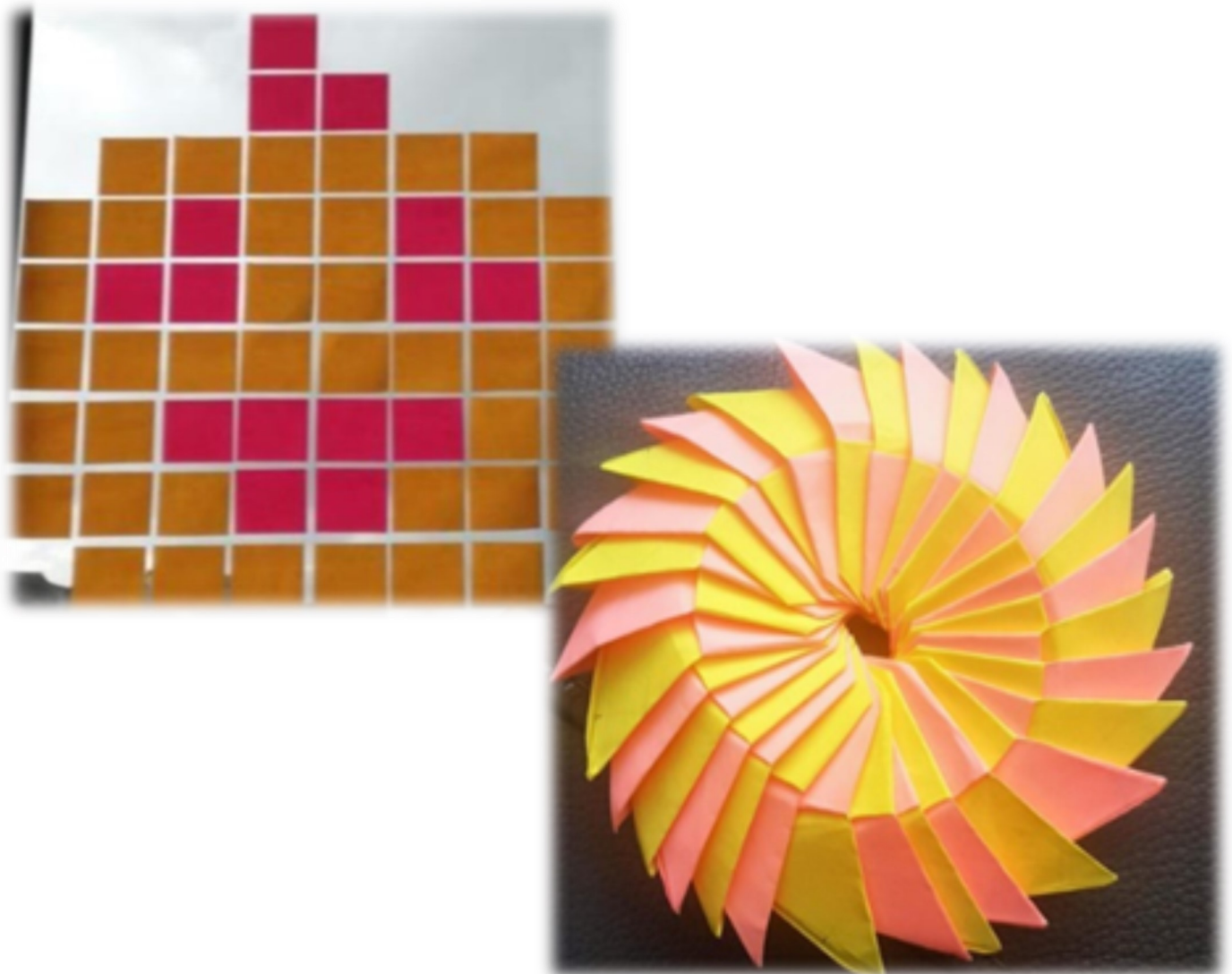
*We value high
standards, hard work
and a ceaseless
desire to improve*

National Chemistry Week 18-24 October

By Miss Green, Second in Science & STEM Coordinator

To celebrate National Chemistry week, this year's theme was 'sticking with Chemistry'. Pupils in Key Stage 3 learnt about the science of slime, the chemistry of glue and sticky inventions.

Pupils were able to link Art with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and create some beautiful post-it note creations based on the sticky inventions lesson.



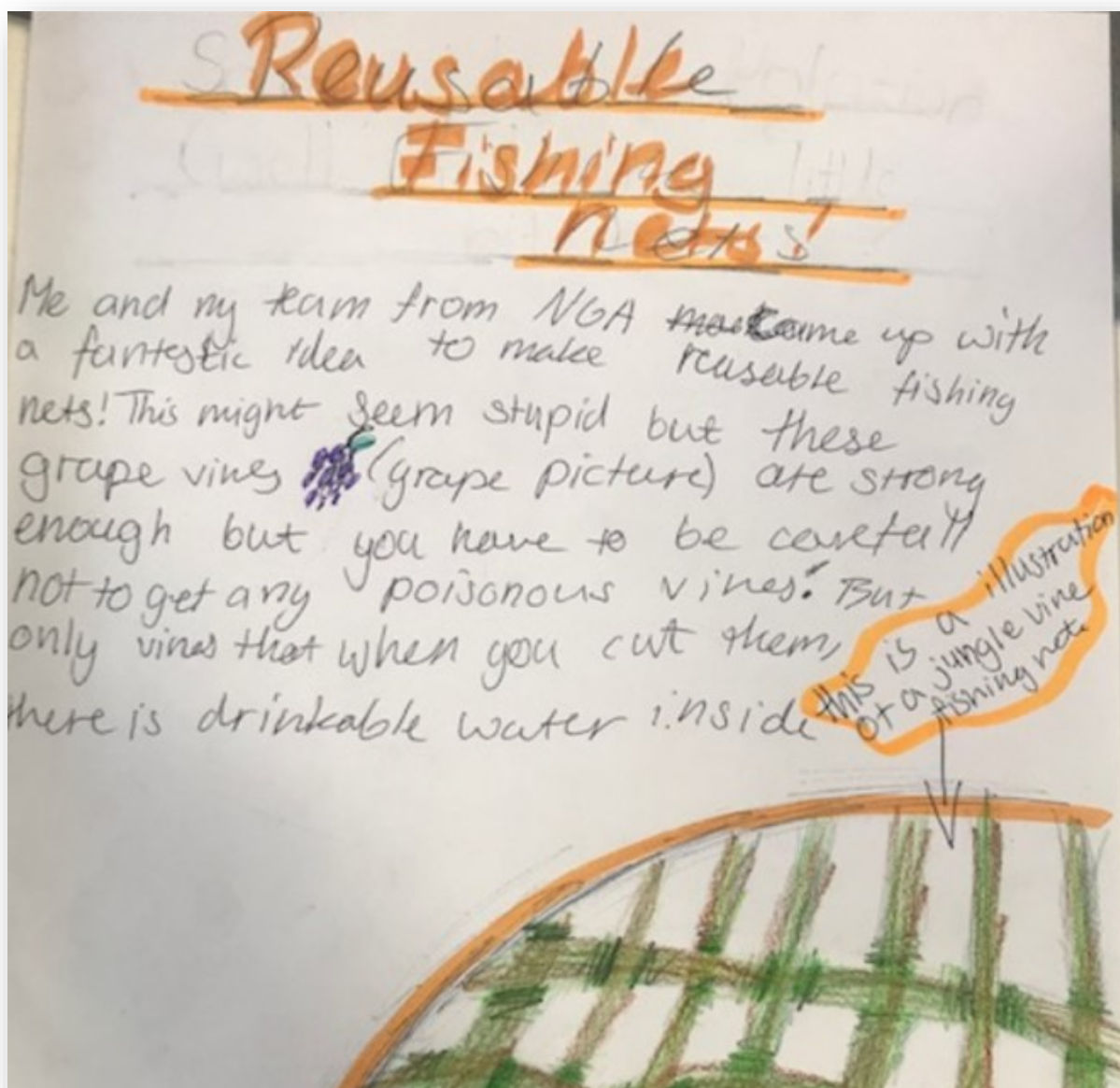
Ada Lovelace Virtual Trip Tuesday 14 October

By Miss Green, Second in Science & STEM Coordinator

This year, due to Covid, we celebrated Ada Lovelace day 2020 with 7N1 attending a virtual trip. Hosted by Biocity, the aim was to inspire the next generation of female STEM scientists.

It started with a Q & A session in which the pupils were able to ask two female scientists questions based on what they do/research and what they studied at school.

They concluded with an activity set by Elasmogen in which pupils used inspiration from nature to create their own inventions.



National Biology Week 5-9 October

By Miss Green, Second in Science & STEM Coordinator

To celebrate National Biology week pupils were given the opportunity to enter the bio bake off competition and bake a cake with a biological theme.

These are the amazing bio bake entries. Well done to all the pupils who entered - fantastic work.

Pupils in Key Stage 3 also had a week of one-off lesson learning about the structure of the heart, brain and circadian rhythms.



Creating Connections Project

By Mrs Pye, Teacher i/c Art

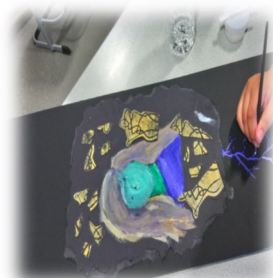
Back in March we were in the middle of our **Creating Connections** project, when we all went into lockdown!

...We have waited 8 months to finish it!

Artist **Shamila Chardy** was 'safely distanced' and back in school to work with us. We started the session discussing everything that has been happening since lockdown (in an hour!) and writing a personal reflection on the scrolls that have been exchanged with our partners at Brunts Academy. The group then worked on their individual panels, to express their own identity, using the two school colours of NGA (purple) and Brunts (green) and gold inspired by Lina Viktor. Hopefully we will get a chance to exhibit them, maybe in the Summer?



Artwork
inspired by
LINA
VIKTOR



Eisha

Rozhie

Belgaes

Ruqaiyah

Mckenzie

Hoor

Faith

Amina

Elizabeth

Anxhelina

Rania

Jessica

Eniola

Iman

Maha

Nagina

Naimah

Emaan

Jessica

Arzu

Aimal

Kiyandralin

Tamanna

Rhona

Shakeelah

Zuzanna

Jessica-Lilly

Rhianna

Out with the old, in with the new

By Ms Burke, Assistant Head of Year 11

Towards the end of the last academic year, the House Captains decided that the house names needed a revamp. Even though the four iconic female sportspersons had played a tremendous role within the school, it was now time to make the four new female role models current and across the board, reaching all subject areas. The process started with 40 new names being brought to the table that had been carefully selected by subject areas. The 40 names were then presented to staff to be voted down to 20. Starting back in September, the tension was built with all form groups having sneaky hints in the notices that a revamp was happening, and the vote would be down to our pupils to have their say. After several rounds of voting and many shortlistings, the final round of votes was taken and counted, and I can proudly announce the new house names are.....

WATSON

OBAMA



ASHER-SMITH

SCOTT

'It happened again' - MOBIE

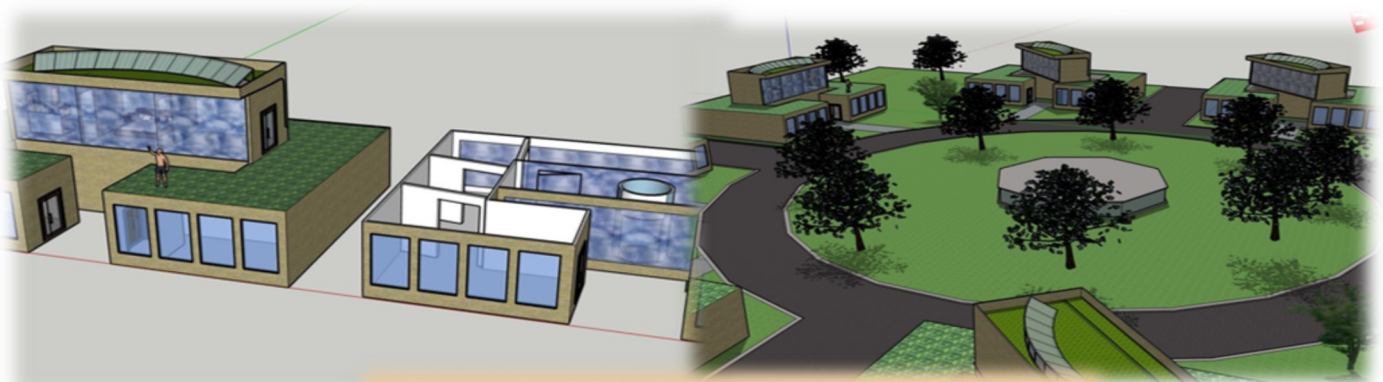
By Mr Traylor, Teacher of Technology

At the beginning of this year George Clarke introduced a young person's MOBIE challenge to design the home of 2030 which would be sustainable, be environmentally friendly and, overall, somewhere multi-generational so that grandparents, parents and their children could live. They should have private, as well as communal areas.

A team of our girls took on the challenge and then Coronavirus took us all by surprise. However, throughout the year, these girls have been continuing to think about their idea and it was submitted at the beginning of last month. Unfortunately, all interactions have had to remain online and the judges had a huge job sorting through ideas from schools, colleges and universities around the country.

All this week George has been announcing winners in the different age categories, and on Tuesday it was the turn of the 14-16 age category. Our girls, Kyra-Marie Winfield and Amelia Woodward, won convincingly with 'Chainlink Communities'. I have to say how immensely proud I am of them, their vision, and the energy they have shown to keep going through everything this year has thrown at us. They are the second MOBIE challenge winners we have had at NGA and to be able to say we have achieved that when there have only been, I believe, four challenges set is quite something. It also proves that architecture is obviously something girls at our school have a passion for and a natural ability at.

The overall winner for the young person's challenge was from The University of Nottingham; there must be something in the water.



Chainlink Communities

Building a sustainable future together, one chainlink at a time



Year 9 Pop Art

By Ms Bates, Deputy Principal

Year 9 Pop Art inspired paintings and collage. Inspired by the Pop Artists' use of everyday objects, and bold and vibrant use of colour.



PSHE Events Term One

By Mrs Turner-Ramadan, Assistant Principal

PSHE days are held throughout the year for each year group. They are pertinent to the needs of our pupils and the current issues in our community and society. In addition to our tutorial time, each year group has a day off timetable to explore some of these topics. We also have one-off workshops that are delivered throughout the year, with many external agencies delivering on different topics. Our goal is to help our pupils develop important life skills, becoming more employable and better equipped for life beyond school and to be happy, well round citizens. We have held the Year 7 PSHE Day so far this year; workshops included:

- Black History awareness delivered by The Next Generation Movement
- Healthy Relationships delivered by Equation
- Resilience and Mindfulness delivered by an Education Mental Health Practitioner
- Puberty and menstruation delivered by Nottingham University Outreach programme

We asked some of our students what they enjoyed the most about the PSHE day; they said:

"Getting taught about people we didn't know about. I liked that Jenelle was showing us clips of people arguing about Black Lives Matter. I liked the clip of the people campaigning. Jenelle answered all of our questions and it gave us stuff to think about."

"I enjoyed placing statements in healthy, unhealthy or sometimes unhealthy, to determine what is going on in different types of relationships."

"I liked the information they gave us about what to do when we get our period. I liked when they answered our questions, as we learnt a lot about the menstrual cycle which helped us."

"I enjoyed learning the calming exercises, breathing is important for our mindfulness."

As part of a way to make our pupils aware of Hate Crime, we had our Community Police Officer come into school to deliver a workshop on Hate Crime and Law to all our Key Stage 3 students. The aim of this workshop was to educate our pupils more about the law and the consequences of some of our actions, with particular reference to racial hate crime.

We asked some of our pupils what they learnt or found the most interesting from the workshop, they said:

"I was most surprised about the length of sentences in the UK and the kinds of things which are illegal - 2 year sentence for punching someone, bad language, consent, you can go to jail at the age of 10, and being horrible to disabled people is a crime etc. "

"I was shocked about stories of killing people for what they wear."

"Yes I found it useful because it helped me learn what do to and what not to do in a hate crime situation; I was surprised at not being able to touch people."

Upcoming events

On 26 February Year 10 will be taking part in a Crime and Safety Awareness day called Prison Me! No Way" (this is the rescheduled date due to the lockdown in the summer term). We know the girls are eager to catch up with this! They get to see and hear real life stories from prisoners; they get to explore a prison cell; they learn about being safe online; they take part in a drama role play about being streetwise and a few other optional workshops which we will confirm nearer the time. Year 11 PSHE Day is 4 March and Year 10 PSHE Day is 23 March. The focus for both will be on Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships and other topics that are pertinent to each of the year groups at the time. The PSHE focus for all of Term 2 will be on Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships. We shared our vision in July with our stakeholders; in case you didn't see our mapping documents and our PSHE policy, please visit our website page for more information regarding the new statutory frameworks: <https://www.nottinghamgirlsacademy.org/page/?title=PSHE&pid=216>

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desire to improve*

Parent and Student Council Summaries

By Mrs Turner-Ramadan, Assistant Principal

NGA Student Council

At the beginning of the term, pupils in each year group had to nominate themselves or vote for others as to whom they wanted to be a Tutor Representative. They were then elected during tutor time and, from this process, two Tutor Representatives were put forward to be on the Student Council team for this year.

So far this term we have had one online meeting; the girls have a Teams channel whereby they can communicate anything they would like to as feedback arises. Our first round of questioning was initially to identify our key strengths, any constructive criticism and suggestions for improvements in individual year groups. Some key points that were raised:

- Lessons are all on one floor which is nice as it wastes less time going from lesson to lesson on different floors.
- The teachers are doing their very best to make sure that everyone is on the same level and any gaps of learning (particularly from lockdown) are filled.
- School is handling the situation well and makes sure that everyone is safe and sound by constantly reminding us about the measures, to wear masks; there are a lot of hand sanitisers for us to use.
- When pupils need help and support from their specific teacher and they do not want the whole class to be there, then it is difficult for them to speak to their specific teacher as the teacher's breaks and lunchtimes are different so they are unable to meet and have a 1 to 1.
- Lack of outdoor seating in the winter weather.
- We want to use PE time for revision, for triple science if not all year 11 pupils.

Action around the pupil's development points have been shared with all staff and pupils; some changes such as an ordering system for the canteen and outdoor seating, are already being researched and concerns regarding 1:1 feedback have been highlighted to staff.

The discussions have been successful so far and they will continue to run twice a term so that pupils can share their voice and we build the community together.

NGA Parent Council

We have created a small group of parents this term; at different times in the year we will ask for feedback about certain events, changes in the curriculum or for general feedback on how things are being received in our community. The first round was the same as the student council questions; some key points that were raised:

- Your pastoral care and the way you create a positive learning environment is paramount to the girl's educational journey.
- You seem to deal with every issue swiftly regardless of what year it affects and keep my daughter up to date. I also think that additional tutor time has helped her settle in.
- Whilst there is a focus on performing well and meeting targets, my perception is that the school puts the girls' needs above the desire to hit targets.
- In relation to anxieties and potential decline in mental health experienced by pupils, what support is there for them and is this communicated to them?
- It would be nice to see in these difficult times how to understand what level my daughter is at so that we can support her with anything she needs help with, as she is in year 7.
- I personally cannot imagine what it is like being a pupil, teacher or supporting staff in these unusual times. If some context could be provided, that would help.

We welcomed the positive feedback at such an exhausting point in the first term. Our staff are working tirelessly, and we appreciate the support. Just to confirm, there has been an abundance of mental health signposting, resources, support sent out to our pupils, almost weekly, and with posters around the school to remind them.

Citizens UK Update

By Mrs Turner-Ramadan, Assistant Principal



This year we have continued our work with Citizens UK; we have switched the focus from Road Safety to Equality. Nottingham Citizens organise communities to act together for social justice and the common good, developing the leadership capacity of their members so they can hold our cities' decision-makers to account on the issues that matter to them. Nottingham Citizens will be working closely with our two Equality Groups to ensure that we learn how to challenge racism or any other kind of discrimination in the right way, that we learn perspective and respect for differing opinions and that we channel our emotions in the right way. What a journey it has been so far!

Protests

We could not be any prouder of our three students, Sanaa, Amira, and Judaea. In the summer they launched a structural racism team and on 8 August, about 80 other people gathered in St. Ann's on the site of the 1958 riots to publicly share stories and testimonies. They began to hold the Police and Crime Commissioner, as well as the Local Authority of education, to account and made them make some commitments on working alongside with us.

The girls have written a full explanation of all their work on our school website, please visit this page <https://www.nottinghamgirlsacademy.org/page/?title=Citizens+UK&pid=367> to find out exactly what they have been up to. In summary, they have:

- Taken to the protests in Nottingham over the summer. Sanaa stood up and read out a beautiful piece of work called 'Frustrations' and Judaea wrote a powerful poem called 'Imagine a World'.
- Judaea has published her very own book called 'My box of crayons'. Please head to Amazon and order your very own copy. We are so very proud of the girls and their achievements.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/My-Box-Crayons-complexities-self-acceptance/dp/0998870765/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=judaea+williams&qid=1606122218&s=books&sr=1-1

Judaea



Sanaa



Listening Campaign

On 3 November over 120 community leaders representing 38 diverse organisations gathered online to launch our new listening campaign. Sanaa spoke to the assembled group of 120 community leaders and has stayed on to become a young leader. Our pupil in Year 11, Judaea, also gained experience of being in the campaign and has provided feedback to our staff. As part of this campaign, we have pledged to create even more diversity within our curricular and to empower pupils and staff to continue the conversations.

Upcoming Events

As part of the listening strategy, we are excited to be part of the Better Learning, a Curriculum Roundtable event on 14 December with Nadia Whittome, MP for Nottingham East, and Sir David Greenaway, amongst other highly respected representatives from other sectors, both educational and cultural. Our pupils will be giving their reflections on ideas to tackle the issue of diversity and representation in the school curriculum.

We know that our journey is only just getting started, but we are on the right track and willing to learn. If you would like to take the time to be a part of the Parent Council or to support the work that we are doing with the Staff and Student Curriculum Equality Groups, then please get in touch with me on rturner-ramadan@nottinghamgirlsacademy.org.

Fundraising Events—Term One

By Mrs Turner-Ramadan, Assistant Principal

This term we wanted to ensure that our fundraising proceeds were donated to those closer to home so that our money is helping out our community more than ever. In November we did our very own Children in Need and we will be donating the proceeds to our local Food Bank. We managed to raise £412.59. We also raised £83 for The Royal British Legion for the Poppy Appeal.

In addition to this, we will be raising money for Save the Children by wearing Christmas jumpers on Wednesday 16 December and another non-school uniform day on Thursday 17 December. We will be asking the Student Council which charities they would like to raise money for next term. If there are any that are close to home for yourselves, then please contact Mrs Turner-Ramadan.



Thank you so much for your continued support; the fundraising events really bring our community closer together.

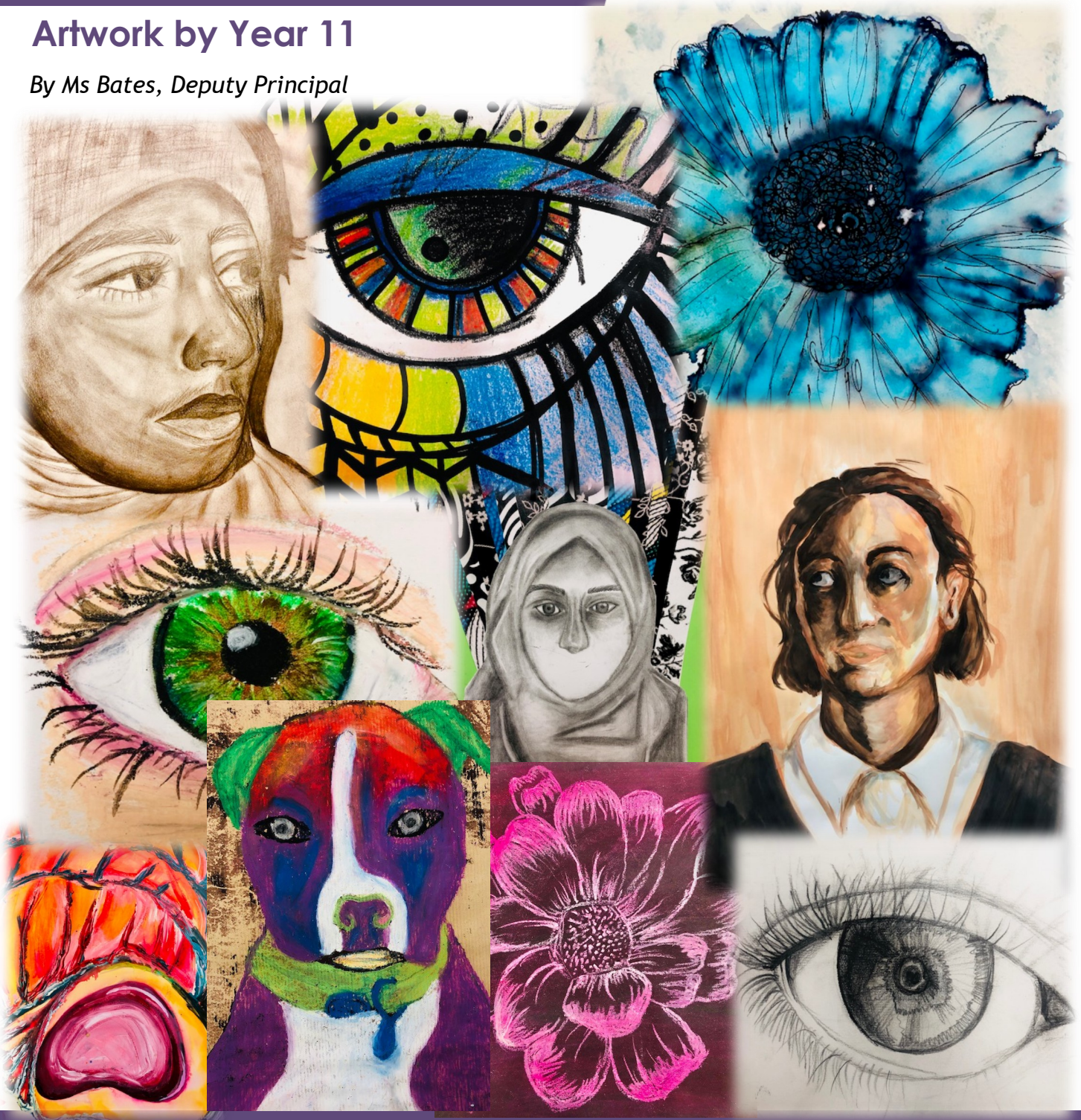
Twitter/Facebook

Keep up-to-date with all the news and exciting events happening at NGA via our Twitter feed and Facebook page by following: @NottmGirlsAcad



Artwork by Year 11

By Ms Bates, Deputy Principal



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