

Nottingham Girls' Academy

Newsletter
March/April 2021

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Artwork by Year 11
2. Key Dates
3. British Science Week 2021
4. After School Lockdown STEM Club with Year 7
5. Upcoming STEM Events Next Term
5. Twitter/Facebook
6. Student Council Members' Views on Lockdown
7. Student Council Members' Views on Lockdown: Part 2
8. International Women's Day 2021
9. Careers Champion Amongst Us
10. PSHE Information
11. PSHE Information Part 2
12. Equality at NGA
13. Letter to Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
14. National Careers Week Round Up
15. Artwork by Year 11
16. Artwork by Year 11

Artwork by Y11



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

Last Day of Spring Term: Thursday 1 April - non-school uniform day (voluntary donation of 50p to go towards Comic Relief)

Easter holidays: Friday 2 April —Friday 16 April

Summer Term 2020/21

Pupils return on Monday 19 April

Year 7 Virtual 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

Week commencing 14 June—Year 10 Work Experience

Year 8 Virtual Parents' evening: Wednesday 30 June

Week commencing 5 July—Year 12 Work Experience

Year 6 Transition Days—Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8 July 2021

Last day of term: Friday 16 July

Exam results days:

Tuesday 10 August 2021: A level results day

Thursday 12 August 2021: GCSE results day

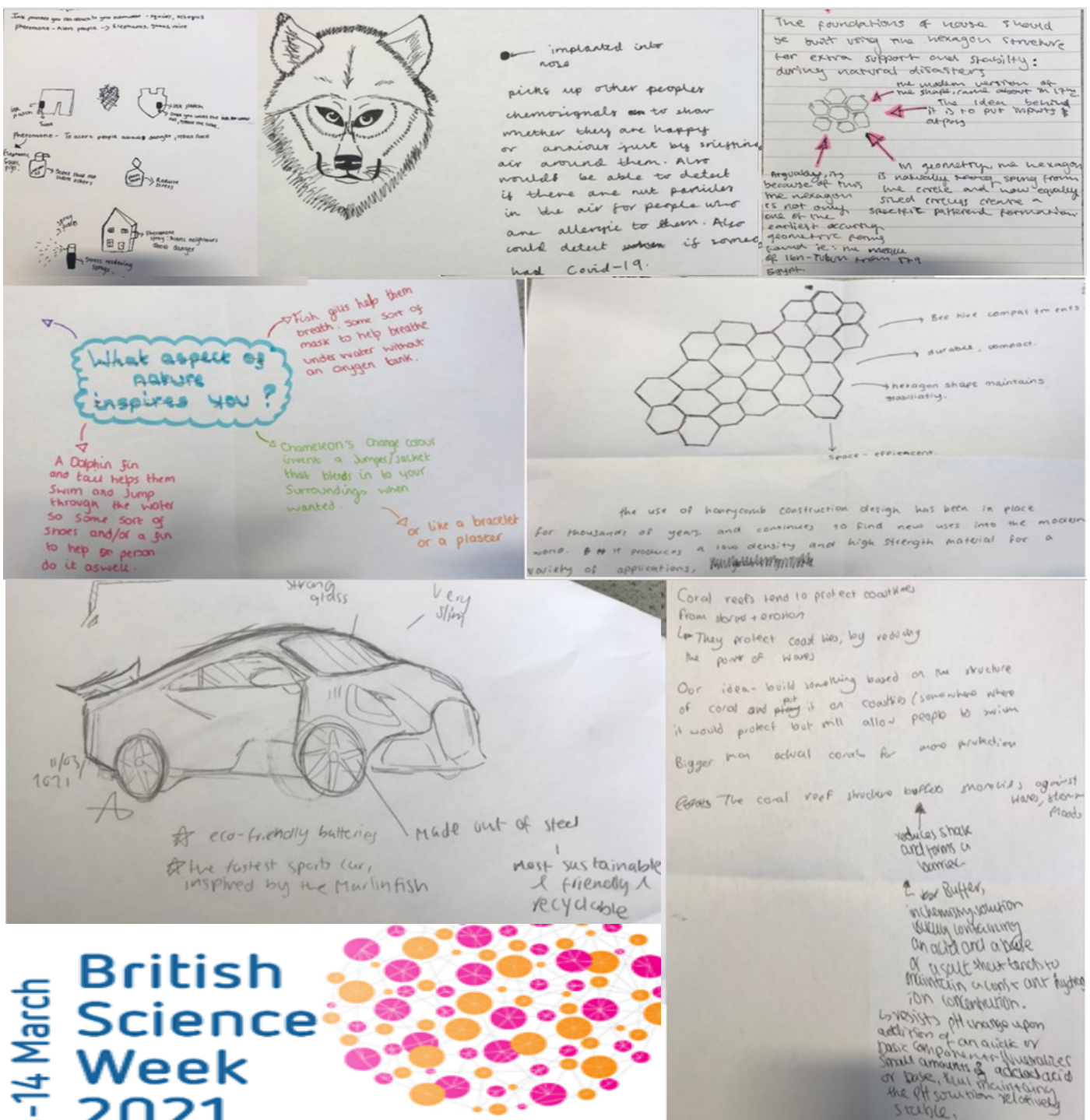
Autumn Term 2021/2022

All pupils in Y7-11 return on Wednesday 1 September 2021

British Science Week 2021

By Miss Green, Second in Science & STEM Coordinator

This year's theme is innovating for the future. To celebrate, pupils in KS3 were challenged with using inspiration from nature to innovate something that could improve our future lives. The pictures below are some of the amazing ideas from pupils in 9G1.



After School Lockdown STEM Club with Year 7

By Miss Green, Second in Science & STEM Coordinator

Last half term year 7 had the opportunity to join an after-school STEM club via Teams. They were able to have a go at a range of exciting experiments at home which sadly they haven't been able to do in school. So far, we have experimented with bouncing eggs, marbled paper, making crystals, lava lamps and osmosis.

I hope to continue the STEM club in school and will post details on the STEM club and year 7 channels when I know more.



Upcoming STEM Events Next Term

By Miss Green, Second in Science & STEM Coordinator

The Big Bang Fair was sadly cancelled last year due to Covid, but I am excited to announce it will be back this year but in a virtual format. Year 7 will have the opportunity to take part in a fun filled day of activities including workshops and meeting STEM ambassadors.



The Big Bang
@ Nottingham Girls' Academy

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





Student Council Members' Views on Lockdown

By Mrs Turner-Ramadan, Assistant Principal

We have been so impressed with the way students that have conducted themselves during this, hopefully, final lockdown. Here are a few comments from our student council members on their thoughts about what it has been like learning from home.

Learning from home has not always been easy. It's been a rollercoaster of emotions. There's been some good days and some bad days. What I've loved the most is the fact that you can just roll out of bed and straight into your lessons without having to go on a journey and wondering whether you're able to make it to school on time or not. One of the things I disliked though is not having that social connection that you would normally get in a classroom or at school with your friends. Staff have been supportive during these times at home. From posting daily reminders in Teams, to keeping us informed about things as soon as possible, to checking up on us, to being helpful in classes and giving us advice and feedback and many more. My teachers checked my work and would give me useful feedback in different ways that would help me via a video or on call which was convenient to me as I could understand where I went wrong and how I could make it better. I would just like finish off by saying many thanks to all the staff in our school for their hard work, dedication and perseverance through this difficult time. They have done a lot of work behind the scenes too.

Sanaa – Year 13

This past year has been a challenge for all of us and, despite having to adapt to the ever-changing rules and regulations, the teachers have worked tirelessly to ensure our education continues regardless. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the teachers here at NGA for their support and encouragement, even when times are difficult. I truly believe they have our best interests at heart, and I cannot thank them enough.

Home learning has been an enjoyable and memorable experience; however, it has definitely made me value the importance of working in the classroom environment. Even though the social aspect of face-to-face learning cannot be replaced, we will soon be able to live life as it used to be and get back to some form of 'normality'.

Rhianna – Year 10

Online learning has had its ups and downs. Sometimes it got quite difficult to find motivation because it felt like we'd never get out, but the teachers kept positive and empathised with us which made it a lot easier. It's not something I would do again willingly but I'm glad that I went through this experience.

Tatyana – Year 12

Personally, online school is going fine right now. Some teachers allow us to take breaks and I got some comments from students and most of them think that sometimes it is a lot of work that we are expected to do. One thing that is going well is communication between teacher and students because we get informed of our WWW and EBIs. In my tutor group we do a weekly call on Wednesday before the start of online school. It's a very stressful time and some of us can't talk to our friends. Although online school is coming to an end, if we ever do go back to online school, maybe this is something we could consider?

Joanny – Year 7

Student Council Members' Views on Lockdown - Part 2

By Mrs Turner-Ramadan, Assistant Principal

Home learning has come with a mass of struggles; together as a school we have been able to continue getting quality education, although it is a bizarre movie like experience. Thanks to the teachers' positive encouraging attitudes, they have pushed us through the difficulties to motivate us to do our best. I know that if this experience was to ever repeat itself, I would be in safe hands at the school of Nottingham Girls' Academy as we are all surrounded here by a supportive staff team.

Millie - Year 11

Home learning has been a fantastic experience that we may only have once. Being in the comfort of my own house has made learning all the more interesting! However, not being face-to-face with my peers and teachers has made learning a little more challenging - as teachers/peers can't go into depth with explaining topics. Overall learning at home has been an amazing experience! If we had to do it again, I most certainly will!

Rasan – Year 9

It has been great learning from home; it still feels like you are at school surrounded by your class mates, but it also gets lonely since you don't get to hang out with your friends like usual in school.

Year 8 pupil

Home learning hasn't been easy for everyone. People miss out on important information because of internet connection or get distracted. It was vital for teachers to carry on their lessons as usual as if we were in school. All teachers made sure that everyone understood what they were doing and, if necessary, went over it several times so the student understood the topic. They also took account of our mental health because of the amount of time we spent staring at a screen. I was able to learn a lot of things from this bizarre experience; how people cope differently in a pandemic, and how normal things are valuable yet we take them for granted. In conclusion, lockdown is a once in a lifetime opportunity to realize and appreciate the world around us.

Year 9 pupil

The situation we are in is one that we never expected and a lot of changes were made to get the most out of what we had. Amongst the changes we had to face, not going to school was probably the hardest to adapt to. Home learning was definitely a challenge and took most people out of their comfort zone, but thanks to the teachers, we made it work. Throughout this whole experience, our teachers were supporting us and made it a lot easier to adapt to the circumstances.

Inaaya – Year 8

We want to thank all parents/carers for supporting our students at home. We know that it has not been easy by any stretch of the imagination, but by doing so our students will be in a much stronger position for when we return.

International Women's Day 2021

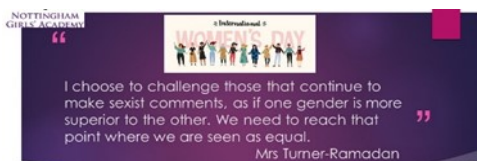
By Mrs Turner-Ramadan, Assistant Principal



This year we have celebrated International Women's day by having discussions and specific themed lessons in most subjects. We have sparked up discussions about who our inspirational women are and why. We have asked our staff to pick something that they will choose to challenge this year and we hope that this will inspire our students too. Lots of these were shared with our students during lessons, on their teams, channels and through social media. In conclusion, we have also created a video which we hope encapsulates our inspirational women and what we will do to challenge people's behaviour and work towards gender equality even more.

Our mission here at the Nottingham Girls' Academy is: We believe in creating a community empowered with the qualities, skills and qualifications to enter the next phase of life with confidence and ambition. Every day is International Women's Day here at NGA.

Below are some examples of our 'choose to challenges' and some inspirational women to staff.



#ChooseToChallenge

#ChooseToChallenge

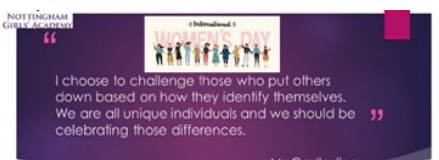
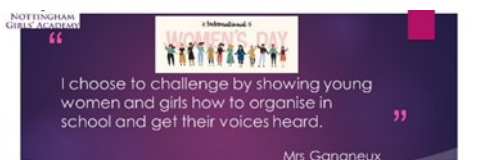
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Careers Champion Amongst Us

By Mrs Turner-Ramadan, Assistant Principal

For National Careers Week during 1 – 6 March we had the chance to nominate Careers Champions; recognising leaders who go above and beyond; whose approach is inspiring, influential and empowering. We nominated Mrs Saunders; please read the article below.

Mrs Saunders is totally devoted to driving great careers guidance for our students. Mrs Saunders knows our Academy inside out and exactly what our students need to have an enriched experience from our careers' curriculum. She has been at our school and the predecessor one for 29 years; this wealth of experience helps to ensure that everyone leaves our school believing and feeling empowered that they have the qualities, skills and qualifications to enter the next phase of life with confidence and ambition.

Mrs Saunders achieved the revalidation status of the Careers Mark Award in December, in the middle of a pandemic; that alone is something to be recognised and commended. Diligent as ever, she never stops. Mrs Saunders is always exploring different ways to make sure we are meeting all the Gatsby Benchmarks and that the provision of careers education and guidance is the best that it can be for all of our students. She leads other staff that help her on this journey, and she empowers them to be innovative and try different platforms to share information and personalise each year group's educational experience.

Mrs Saunders is passionate about improving the provision of the school year on year; to aid this she regularly seeks feedback through evaluation with our stakeholders, students, parents, council members and employers. Her team use destination data to ensure we are meeting students' needs by minimising the number of students that are not in education, employment or training. The team work tirelessly to provide personalised pathways so that students are entering the next stage of their career pathway at an appropriate level for them.

Schools' doors maybe closed to some, but Mrs Saunders is available after hours remotely to ensure that all students can ask questions about their options process or their Sixth Form applications, because she wants the best for our students, no matter what the situation.

All year groups have received information remotely to keep them up to date with local information and online opportunities. This has remained the case upon returning to school and there are now careers channels within each year group to provide a specific focus to the appropriate level for them. Mrs Saunders recognises that our students are facing such uncertainty for their next steps; she is committed to making sure that they have all the information possible to make informed decisions about their future aspirations.

We are so lucky to have Mrs Saunders here at NGA; her calm approach and wealth of experience helps us to meet the needs and challenges of our diverse community.

In no more than one sentence, say why this person, organisation or institution is a champion?

Mrs Saunders achieved the revalidation status of the Careers Mark Award in December, in the middle of a pandemic, that alone is something to be recognised and commended, this is a testament to how passionate and determined she is to ensure our students are not disadvantaged from the provision that they are entitled to.

We are very proud to have staff at NGA that care so much about the welfare and journey of our students.



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PSHE Information

By Mrs Gangneux, PSHE Coordinator

Dates for diaries

Year 11 PSHE Day – 29 April

Year 9 PSHE Day – 6 May

Mental Health Awareness week – 10 May

Year 10 PSHE Day – 27 May

City RSE day – 24 June

Year 8 PSHE Day – 1 July

PSHE afternoon - Friday 5 March

Year 11 pupils took part in a PSHE & Careers afternoon on Friday 5 March looking at careers information in more depth. External speakers were present from Nottingham College and Confetti to talk about how they work, as well as answering questions from our own girls about Sixth form here at NGA, entry requirements, types of course and much more. Everyone found it really useful and enjoyable. It was great to be focusing on the future once again instead of talking about the past year.

Straight after that, the year 11 pupils took part in a workshop on tips and tricks for dealing with uncertainty with the PSHE Coordinator, Mrs Gangneux, followed by an excellent session on Student Finance led by Ms Elharm. The pupils learnt about the different types of finance available, how to open an account, what credit cards were and how they operate, how to pay bills, as well as looking at student debt and managing your own money in a household. Ms Elharm was really enthusiastic about leading this session as she felt strongly it was something that year 11 needed to discover. Thank you Ms Elharm!



Better Learning - a Curriculum Roundtable

On Tuesday 16 March we were again invited to take part in the curriculum roundtable event with Nottingham Citizens and Nadia Whittome MP. This is a very exciting opportunity to create a more representative curriculum where all cultures and stakeholders in our school and our wider community are represented. With Sanaa (year 13), and Judaea (year 11), Nottingham universities, Nottingham schools and transatlantic slavery project leaders and our own curriculum equality group, we have been working closely with Nottingham Citizens whose vision is for Nottingham to be known as a place where our educational institutions are taking the lead on creating an anti-racist curriculum and an anti-racist and inclusive teaching environment. This event was the next step on that journey. Watch this space!

Citizens' Academy



Following on from this, we are super excited to announce several new members of our citizenship group. This group is a student-led body of young ladies interested in making change and supporting that change to happen. They listen to the issues that affect the students and community of NGA and react accordingly. Well done to Chloe (year 8), Ellie (year 8) and Haddy (year 10) for putting their enthusiasm and energy into such a positive project.

We are always looking out for new members, so please do get in touch if you are interested in making a positive change and eventually being involved in such great events such as the curriculum roundtable and Better Books.

Contact Email: admin@nottinghamgirlsacademy.org

PSHE Information Part 2 -

1:1 with our CEO of Greenwood Academies Trust - Wayne Norrie

By Mrs Gangneux, PSHE Coordinator

Sanaa (year 13) works as lead organiser to our Citizens' Academy group and a young leader with Nottingham Citizens. Through her work with Nottingham Citizens, she wrote to Mr Norrie and asked if he had time to talk to her about his interests and passions; he was only too happy to oblige. Here is her write up of the event:

On the 3 February I had a very honest, inspiring and wonderful time with Mr Norrie. He is such an amazing, great CEO and he put me at ease straightaway. I just want to share my gratitude to sir for taking time out of his afternoon in having this 1:1 with me, telling jokes and making the atmosphere light! Thank you to Mrs Gangneux for also setting this 1:1 up and for supporting me. Thanks to Heidi and Pete from Nottingham Citizens for teaching me how to have 1:1s and the importance of having 1:1s in community organising. A special thanks to Heidi for also preparing me for this.

The 1:1 couldn't have gone any better! I learnt many things from this 1:1 conversation such as the best part about sir's job is "Going into academies to work with students, staff and headteachers" - he's really missing this at the moment! He has to make a lot of decisions and has a budget in which he has to make sure he's spending it really wisely and helping students to reach their full potential, but also helping staff who might want to go on training courses or who might want to develop because we're all learning every single day. The visions around the schools that sir has got in the Trust is that he wants "Everybody to leave feeling confident and being able to read because if a child leaves primary school not knowing how to read, then their chances of going onto becoming someone successful are very slim". He just wants everyone to have an equal shot. Sir wants us "To be articulate, get the best grades possible for ourselves and to just be a really rounded person where we are able to speak to people and can feel comfortable in different people's presence whilst knowing our place and worth in society, to go out and be our own unique self." We went on further to talk about what makes us angry when we look around our city, where sir spends his time, energy and money and I'm sure you already know what answer sir gave... his children! We then went on to talk about what sort of curriculum we felt was important and I learnt a very special lesson from sir. It was... did you know that the most important person that got Neil Armstrong (the first person on the moon) into space, was the cleaner because if the cleaner didn't clean up the rocket then it would not have flown! The lesson behind this is to treat and respect everyone around you no matter who they are or what they do as a job. Thus, to recognise everyone's part in helping you get to where you are today. Thank you for taking your time in reading this. I hope it has inspired you in some way, shape or form.

Equality at NGA

By Mrs Turner-Ramadan, Assistant Principal

Equality at NGA

This is a snapshot of what we have done so far this year in our journey to understanding equality more and the changes we can put in place to develop it further. We are going to start a parent equality group after Easter; this will be a chance to share your experiences with us, help us focus our discussions in school and research changes that can be made to our curriculum. If this is something that interests you and you would like to be involved, then please email: curriculumequality@nottinghamgirlsacademy.org

Curriculum Equality Group

A Snapshot of our Equality Focus 2020-2021		
What have we done so far	What have we got planned to do next	Further developments
BLM PPTs to students and staff	Develop the work across the Greenwood Academies Trust.	Make the link with Citizens UK sustainable.
Next Generation Movement led a PSHE workshop on Black History.	Develop department pledges in term 3.	More staff training on anti-racism and how to listen even if we don't understand.
Bought 25 diverse books for the library and shared them with staff.	Continue to develop and make further changes to our department schemes of work.	Get more year groups involved once Covid restrictions are no longer in place.
Created a staff curriculum Equality Group.	Staff training on unconscious bias, how to handle difficult conversations and anti-racism training.	Develop our understanding around the 9 characteristics not just race.
Created two student equality groups for Year 9 and 10.	Inset training on key terminology and diversity in the workplace.	Links being developed within the local community and beyond.
Joined Citizens UK to educate our young leaders.	To develop a listening campaign with the student equality groups, working with and receiving training from Citizens UK.	Make the links with our other Academies sustainable.
Young leaders have created a student led group called Citizens Academy.	Asking parents to be a part of a specific Parent Equality Group.	Engage with staff on equality issues.
History and links with transatlantic slavery workshop 18.3.21.	Continue to develop the website, the newsletters, social media with information and upcoming events.	
Working with the University of Nottingham to help review the teacher's glossary for the Nottingham Schools and Transatlantic Slavery (NSaTS) project.	Research our NGA statistics on all student and staff groups.	
BFI Schools CPD online event, Black Lives on Screen for KS3/4 History.	Focus groups with parents, student and staff.	
Curriculum change, a few examples; different books are studied in English, revised history schemes of work and adapted key terminology, different cultures are researched in food technology, more awareness of diverse and female scientists and aboriginal art is an important part of the art curriculum. These are just to name a few.	Misogyny training - Equation 27.4.21.	
Asked student council about their thoughts on Equality and Equality in the curriculum.	Continued work with Citizens UK and Nadia Whittome MP around making our curriculum more diverse and more represented.	Staff
Asked parent council about their thoughts on Equality and Equality in the curriculum.	Develop the display boards around school with a more diverse representation of people.	
Raised awareness and increased the resources during students PSHE tutorial sessions and PSHE days.		
Updated the school website with support and information about our aims.		Students
		Community

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

Letter to Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

By Miss Richardson, Assistant Head of Year 10 & Teacher of Humanities

In their humanities lessons this term, to celebrate International Women's day, the pupils have been learning about inspirational women throughout history. Miss Richardson's 7N1 history group did some research on Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, saying they found her very inspirational and someone they feel they could look up to. They had a lot of questions they wanted to ask her, so decided to write her a letter! The questions have been sent to her office in New York, and 7N1 eagerly await her response!



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9th March 2021

Dear Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez,

For International Women's Day this year, the students at Nottingham Girls' Academy were taught a lesson on inspirational women throughout History, right up to the present day.

We covered numerous different women, however the person we found the most interesting was you and your work as a member of American Congress. We were amazed at how much you had achieved by such a young age, and how you stand up for what you believe and what is right.

We had lots of different questions about you and how you have gotten to the position you hold, so we thought this would be a good opportunity to ask you yourself!

The main questions we had were:

- 1) How did you get to the position you are in now at such a young age?
- 2) Did you ever reach a point where you felt like giving up? If so, how did you keep going?
- 3) When you were younger what did you want to be?
- 4) Who inspires you the most?

We want to thank you so much for taking the time to read our letter – we were so interested in your story, and find it very inspiring to see a young woman making her voice heard in the world. It would mean so much to us to receive a response!

Best Wishes,

The Students of 7N1
 Nottingham Girls Academy.

National Careers Week Round Up

By the Careers Team

This year we enjoyed National Careers Week virtually, but that didn't stop us! We had access to a new employer panel every day, each with 3 speakers in different related professions. Our speakers discussed their roles, career journeys and what opportunities there are for young people in each of their sectors. In this, they discussed the future of work, the skills that made them successful and shared their top tips for young people considering careers like theirs.



On Monday, KS3 had the opportunity to hear from Mr Norrie and Baasit Siddiqui from Gogglebox. Mr Norrie spoke about his education and career path, which at points were really challenging, and why he is so passionate about making our schools better. Former teacher, Baasit, spoke a lot about why it is important to make good connections with others, and spoke about how he built his own education company off the back of Gogglebox notoriety.

The first half of the week also held talks from healthcare workers, such as a Scientific Investigator, a Healthcare Scientist Technologist, and a male Nurse, who is the chair of 'Men Into Nursing Together'. This was followed by talks from those hired in the technical world, including people who work in Associate Directing, Site Reliability for Google, and a Business Programme Manager intern. Nadine, the intern, had a particularly interesting point of view as she was right at the start of her career, which is something we hear about less often, but somewhere we have all/will all experience!

Later in the week we heard about Creative Careers, including a talk from Matt, a video producer and editor, who has worked in the charity sector. We also heard from a TV Director and an Architect with qualifications from both Cambridge University, and MIT in the USA, who had worked in Beijing at one point! We also watched our Civil and Public Service Career panel where we heard from a Police Sergeant, a Geoscience Technical Advisor, and a Deputy Head of News. We heard about how the government work with the press and how security clearance helps keep our country safe. Year 11 had a Q&A session with Confetti College, NGA Sixth Form and Nottingham College about their next steps where we spoke about best and worst case results day scenarios, college life and how to link college courses to your future careers.

In the final panel, we heard from people in the transport and aviation industries, including a Manufacturing Engineer, and Greenwood Academies Trust alumnus, Frida, who currently works for Rolls Royce. We also got to find out about life as the first and (currently) only female pilot in the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team.

Artwork By Year 11

By Ms Bates, Deputy Principal



Y11 Art





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