



NOTTINGHAM GIRLS' ACADEMY

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

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15 September 2021

Dear parent/carers

I am writing to you today to inform you of some exciting opportunities happening in school this academic year.

A Love of Reading

As Literacy Co-ordinator at Nottingham Girls' Academy, part of my role outside of curriculum delivery is to create a positive environment for Literacy and reading, improve reading ages in reluctant readers and challenge strong readers to engage with more complex texts. With this in mind, we have been developing a brand new library space for pupils to access reading material. Kitted out with new furniture and designed to meet the needs of different types of readers, we hope, when this is complete, it will be a vibrant place for pupils to explore the joy of reading.

Book of The Term

To help to promote reading for pleasure in school, we have introduced a book of the term for each key stage. Details for these books have been in our weekly notices for pupils, and we are encouraging them to loan the books from local libraries or purchase them if they can. The books are:

- Amari and the Night Brothers by B.B. Alston for Key Stage 3
- Run Rebel by Manjeet Mann for Key Stage 4
- Girl, Woman, Other by Bernardine Evaristo for Key Stage 5

Copies will also be available in our library when it is completed.

Book Club

To promote and utilise these books, we have decided to follow up the Book of the Term programme with a reading club open to all year groups, where pupils can come and read and discuss books. For content purposes, we will read the Key Stage 3 book in the club. The book club will run on Thursday afternoons from 3.15pm until 4pm.

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- We strive to fulfil everyone's learning potential. • We value high standards, hard work and a ceaseless desire to improve.
 - We provide a safe, kind, nurturing and inclusive environment. • We enjoy the journey together.



Easy Readers' Club

We recognise that more reluctant readers may find an after-school club focussed on reading quite intimidating, so on a Thursday lunchtime we will be running an Easy Readers club from 12.55pm to 1.15pm. The book we will be reading in this club is the debut novel by Alex Foulkes, Rules for Vampires. The book is a spooky comedy with lots of beautiful illustrations to make the story easier to understand.

Author Visit

We have also managed to secure Alex Foulkes for a visit to school on the **22 September** to host a Q&A talk with year 7 and 8 in the afternoon. Pupils who have a copy of the book will get the unique opportunity to meet with Alex and have their book signed. Details about Rules for Vampires, Alex, and where you can pick up a copy of her book are attached to this letter if you would like to purchase one for your child ahead of our author visit. One pupil from each tutor group in year 7 and 8 will have the opportunity to win a copy of the book ahead of their author visit.

Creative Writing Club

Finally, we are resuming our fantastic creative writing club this year, which will run after school on Wednesdays from 3.15pm until 4pm, with an additional 30 minute session for workshopping writing, meaning pupils can remain in school on this day until 4.30pm if they wish to attend the creative writing workshop. We have lots of exciting things planned for creative writing club, including exclusive workshops run by published authors, opportunities for trips and work experience in the writing industry and access to local, national and international writing competitions where pupils can see their own work published.

With all the exciting things happening with the library at Nottingham Girls' Academy this year, we hope to nurture a community where reading and improving literacy becomes integrated into our pupils' daily lives. Reading is so important for learning, and we want our children to recognise this and strive to achieve their very best potential whilst also opening doors to their imagination and creativity.

Yours faithfully

K Cox

Mrs K Cox
Literacy Co-ordinator

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A Brief Message from Alex Foulkes, Author of Rules for Vampires.

Dear parents and carers at Nottingham Girls' Academy,

My name is Alex Foulkes and I am an author from Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. My debut novel, Rules for Vampires, is out from publisher Simon & Schuster on the 16 September 2021. It is a spooky, funny, horror-comedy adventure with themes of friendship, family and what it means to be brave.

I am delighted to be visiting Nottingham Girls' Academy on **Wednesday 22 September** in the afternoon. I will be speaking to all of year 7 and year 8, giving some insight into being traditionally published as an author in the UK. I hope my presentation will encourage all students to aim high and follow their dreams, no matter what their future aspirations may be.

Should you wish to purchase a book for signing on the day, you can find Rules for Vampires from Thursday 16 September at Waterstones, Amazon, W H Smiths, and your local independent bookshops. The pupils can then bring them in for a personal inscription and author signature from myself.

Pupils from other year groups will also have the opportunity to meet me in Creative Writing Club after school on Wednesday 22 September, where I will also be happy to provide a signature and inscription.

Please note: A signing is completely optional and I can't wait to see all of the year 7s and 8s at the academy. I hope they will enjoy the opportunity to do something different and to talk to an author.

FANGS very much and see you soon!

Sincerely

Alex Foulkes



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