

# Nottingham Girls' Academy



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Newsletter  
July 2023

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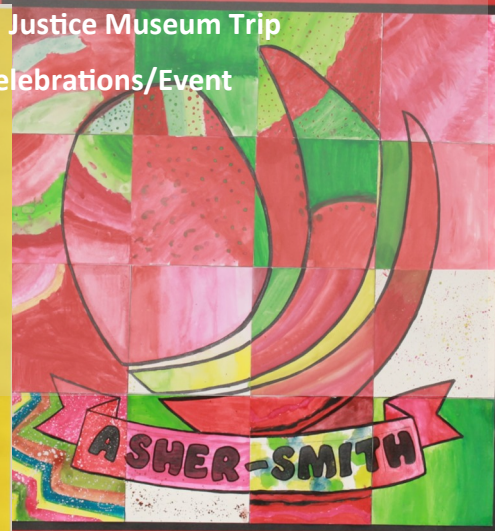
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*We believe in creating a community empowered with the qualities, skills and qualifications to enter the next phase of life with confidence and ambition*

## Key Dates

*What's coming up?*

### **Autumn Term 2023/2024**

31st August 2023 - INSET Day.

1st September 2023 - INSET Day.

4th September - Year 7 pupils only including Year 7 pupils who are joining the AC3 Group.

5th September - Year 10 and Year 11 pupils (including those in the AC4 group) return. Sixth Form students return.

6th September - Year 8 and Year 9 pupils (including those in the AC3 group) return.

20th October 2023 - INSET Day.

23rd October 2023 - 3rd November 2023 - Half Term Holiday.

6th November 2023 - Pupils return to school.

## Free School Meal Vouchers for the summer holiday

The Nottingham City Council is providing funding for free school meal vouchers during the Spring Holiday period. Parents/carers of each eligible pupil will receive a £30 supermarket voucher for this period which will be sent electronically by Sodexo.



## 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



## Parent Survey

*By Mrs Turner-Ramadan*

It has been a year since we implemented the new behaviour policy. We have made adjustments along the way, and we are now ready to enter year two and phase two of our behaviour plan. Therefore, we have begun to review our behaviour policy again and would welcome your feedback on the current processes. Please take the time to complete the parent/carer survey below. We have asked staff and students to complete a similar set of questions.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=WnSRoNi3ek2yphNZBT1FEBagDP3oAKFEnVZDim7C6LxUM0dXMFZUNkFHT0IRVldVWUo0Wk1CM1gyWS4u>

## Music Showcase

By Mrs Downie-Tosini, Teacher i/c Music



NGA's Music Showcase concerts were presented with great success last month. There was an abundance of talent on show over two nights on Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 June.

It was a fantastic celebration of what happens in extra curricular music all year round, with all performers demonstrating their tireless commitment and hard work having attended weekly instrumental lessons and lunchtime and after-school music clubs and choirs. Not to mention the hours of practice! There was a representation from year 7 through to year 12 with some 60 students involved. We had brass and strings players, guitarists, drummers, singers, pianists, keyboard players and NGA's very own choir 'Harmony'. A special mention also goes out to all of the students who worked in the sound and lighting booth and back-stage operating the technical requirements of the evening ensuring a smooth delivery. Well done and thank you to the 'Atmosphere' team and the back-stage crew. We couldn't do it without you! A special thanks also to your dedicated instrumental teachers who are so proud of each and every one of you.

Congratulations and thank you to all involved. You were amazing. Keep playing over the summer and we will welcome you back for more music making in September.



## Piano Exam Success

*By Mrs Downie-Tosini, Teacher i/c Music*



There are around 75 students from Year 7 through to Year 11 currently having weekly instrumental lessons in the Music department. Attending these lessons takes an enormous amount of commitment and a dedication to practice what they have learnt to progress further. It all amounts to a display of growing confidence and resilience to ensure success. Some of these students have recently taken the brave step and took an exam in the piano showing their technical ability and a performance of a number of pieces under examination conditions.

Achieving Grade 1 are Lydia pictured on the right (Distinction), Riya pictured on the left (Merit), Benan (Merit), Abena (Merit), Sarah (Pass) and achieving her Grade 3 is Kristiyana (Merit).

Congratulations to those students mentioned for their deserved results and I look forward to welcoming them next year to continue their musical journey.

If you would like to enquire about learning a musical instrument in September, please pop into the Music room and register your interest.



## Guitar Exam Success

By Mrs Downie-Tosini, Teacher i/c Music



Guitar exams are a relatively new addition to those learning to play and what a first successful year they've had. It was always agreed that exams are the way forward when learning an instrument. Not only do they develop the learners' skills and knowledge, but it marks their excellent progress and builds their self-esteem and confidence. A worthwhile journey!

Those successful students who gained their first RockSchool guitar qualification are Celene pictured, who gained a merit in her Debut grade. Maya, Shannay and Alessia all received a merit in Grade 1 with Rihanna and Leona achieving a pass. Riya achieved a distinction in her Grade 2. Great results!

Congratulations to those students mentioned and I look forward to welcoming them next year to continue their musical journey.

Have a musical summer and remember to practice!



## The Urban Nature Trip - 24 May, 30 June & 11 July

By Miss Mahmood, STEM Coordinator

Students from year 7-9 were selected to carry out some sampling techniques in Wollaton Hall. They look at different types of sampling which they will use again in GCSE Biology. They met with an ecologist who showed them how to use transect sampling, checking the pond for clarity of water, using a puter to see bugs clearly and identify them using an ID guide. They looked at the different species of plants and living organisms.

The ecologist, Louise Hamilton came to NGA to carry out some sampling techniques with the students to help students make comparison of the biodiversity between NGA and Wollaton Park. The student then presented their finding on the 11<sup>th</sup> July at Wollaton Hall to some scientist and another school. They were all awarded with CREST Discovery awards.



The pictures shows Hania and Sana carrying out transect sampling on plant species, using a puter and a sweep net to collect insects.

This picture shows Iman, Aleena and Aila looking at water pollution and species in water.



## Dirt and Discovery Trip - 14 June 2023

By Miss Mahmood, STEM Coordinator

The Year 9 students went to Thoresby Estate in Perlethorpe to attend Cereals (the largest arable farming event in Europe). They had participated in interactive sessions, looked at soil science, using big drones and robotics in agriculture and seeing cutting-edge farm machinery. This trip had cross-curricular links to GCSE Biology and Geography.



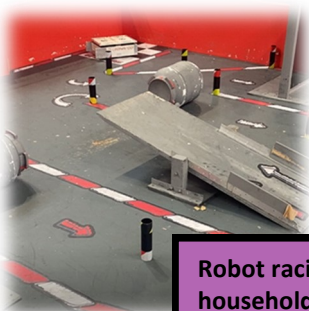
The picture on the right shows Akshara looking at mineral deficiencies in plants.



## The Big Bang Fair - 22 June 2023

By Miss Mahmood

The STEMINIST went to the NEC building in Birmingham to have a look at the different projects students from around the country was doing. This helped them to look at their own projects they were carrying out in STEM Club and make improvements. They also explored activities from a range of different scientists and big organisations such as Specsavers and Amazon.



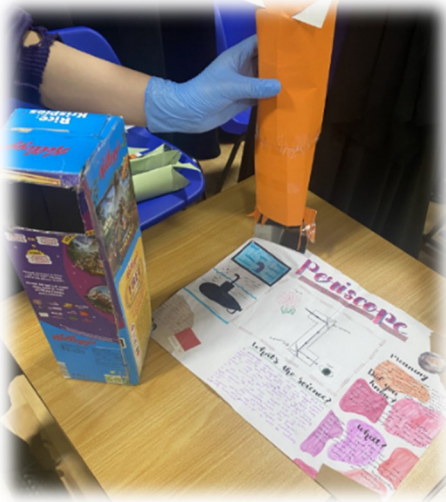
Robot racing using simple household objects.

Safia with her 'I love technicians' badges' to show appreciation to our incredible Science technicians.



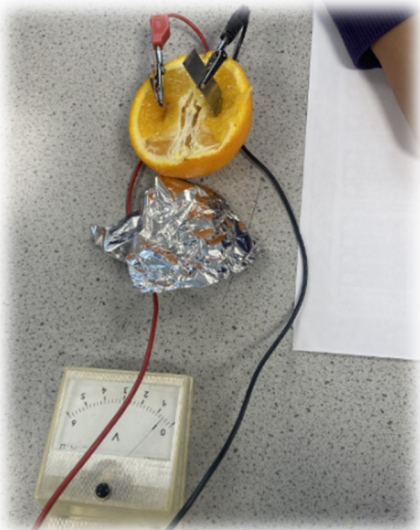
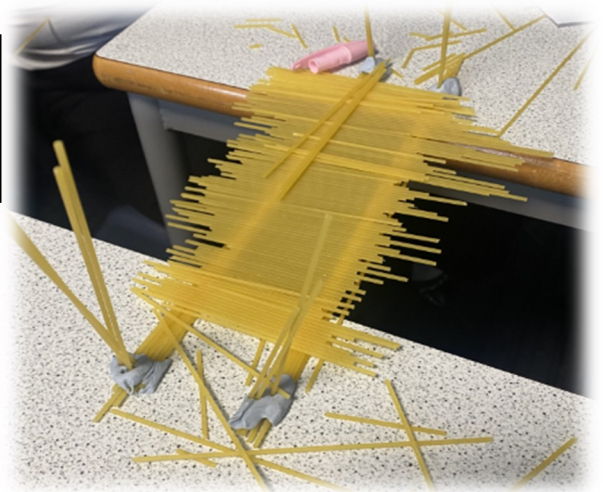
## The Big Bang in Schools - Year 7 Drop Down Day - 11 July 2023

By Miss Mahmood, STEM Coordinator



The year 7s took part in a drop-down day where they were involved in many different activities involving STEM subject. In the hall, the STEMINISTS showed off different projects and activities and spoke about the Science behind each investigation. We also had a physics specialist Greg Richards come in to launch students' rockets on the school field.

The largest Geotechnical company, Keller delivered a workshop on the strongest bridge to promote girls in STEM.



QUEST has showed students how to make batteries with fruit and how to filter dirty water.

Finally, the University of Nottingham delivered a speech on all the range of careers in STEM and an academic researcher from Nottingham Trent University delivered a speech on making protein glow and her project work at university.



## Y9 & 10 Dance Workshop

*By Grace, Year 10 student*

On Friday 7 July, year 10 performing arts and dance students, as well as year 9 students who picked these subjects as one of their options, were invited to take part in a creative workshop run by Next Door Dance - an all-female dance company based here in Nottingham. They taught us snippets from their most recent show, *The Beautiful Game*, that they toured all around the country. This show details the highs and lows of being a British football fan and is full of expressive, 'outside the box' choreography. As dance and performing arts students, we have to create our own performance based on a stimulus given to us by the exam board; this workshop helped us to get into the mindset of a choreographer and taught us that our performances don't have to be entirely made up of pretty dance numbers but showed us that we can create movement from anything, not just lyrics and song. The workshop started with a few games to get to know each other, before doing a quick warm up and a small technique focused routine. We then did some corner work and learned a small section of repertoire from *The Beautiful Game*. We were then given the opportunity, in pairs, to create our own choreography to a section of sports commentary used in the show. This section of the workshop was very interesting because it allowed us to explore a unique style of choreographing and introduced us to a new way of approaching creative assignments.



## Y7 Romeo and Juliet Trip

*By Mrs Menz, Teacher of Drama*

This July thirty year sevens and the Performing Arts team did a trip to an outdoor production of Romeo and Juliet at Wollaton Park. The students were prepared with blankets and food for this perfectly sunny outdoor event and an exciting time was had by all. The backdrop of the magnificent Wollaton hall was a great addition to this fast paced all male production of the famous Tragedy. The students were able to identify the scenes they were studying and rehearsing in class. They especially enjoyed swordsmanship of the cast on such a small stage. We will definitely be arranging another trip like this again next year.



## Y9 Bletchley Park Trip

*By Miss Elharm, Teacher of Mathematics*

On Friday 21 July, we took some Year 9 students on a cross-curricula trip to Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes. Primarily a Maths trip, students had the chance to decode and decipher messages which would reproduce the style of messages sent during World War Two. With a History focus, students had the chance to explore the grounds with an expert guide who they could ask any questions to. Students really enjoyed looking at the recreated rooms from the World War Two coding rooms and watching an immersive film about the history of Bletchley Park and the huge impact it had on our success in the War. There was an emphasis on the role of women during that time, which was very inspiring for our students.



## Careers Update

*By Miss Everard-Diuk, Careers Lead*

It's been a busy time for the careers department at NGA. Since returning in April for our third and final term of the year, we have seen two year groups go onto work experience, two careers days, multiple trips and the commencement of careers interviews for Years 10 and 12.



**HSBC**

Years 10 and 12 have really impressed us this term, from impeccable behaviour on their respective work experience weeks, to fantastic engagement in their careers interviews. In NGA, we trust our students to source their own work experience placements in order to build the skills to ensure they are able to do this in the future. Students sourced a fantastic variety of placements, in sectors ranging from Optometry to

Childcare and even Physics. As such, we are finding within the first wave of careers appointments with myself and external advisors from Luminate Careers, that both year groups have fantastic, carefully considered and varied careers aspirations. We also follow up our work experience programme with a careers day for each year group. Years 10 and 12 engaged in workshops from the University of Northampton, the Think Big Partnership and HSBC, among many other fantastic employers.

The Think Big logo features the words 'THINK BIG' in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters, with a small soccer ball icon above the word 'BIG'. The background is a solid red square.

We've also had students engage with a variety of trips this term. A group of Year 10 students went to Aberdovey, Wales to complete an Outward Bound Course, partially funded by DHL. This trip encourages our Year 10 students to attend an assessment centre and work through a programme structured around a variety of employability skills. Year 10 learners of black heritage were also invited to apply for the Future Leaders project, a two day event held at Nottingham Playhouse working with GRIT on building confidence and

resilience, with learners from a variety of local schools. This concluded with a trip to the University of Nottingham, including a campus tour and an awards ceremony that parents were invited to.

Finally, a select group of Year 9 learners engaged with a day of workshops by Humanutopia, focussed on public speaking, self-awareness and, again, the all-important skill of self-confidence. This project, funded by Capital One, encouraged learners to consider the impact of words on the behaviour of themselves and others and pushed learners to get out of their comfort zone and make good choices.



We're excited by the fantastic progress our students have made in their career choices this year, and can't wait to see how they develop in the following year. Miss Everard will be onsite on A level and GCSE results day to celebrate and assist our current Year 11 and 13s as they take their next steps.

## Y12 National Justice Museum Trip

*By Miss Suter, Teacher of Social Sciences and Mrs Griffiths, Teacher i/c of Health and Social Care*

The year 12 Criminology and Sociology students were given the opportunity to go to the National Justice Museum in Nottingham's Lace Market. We first had a tour of the museum, met a Debtor's prison guard and the head of the laundry service! 1 pence per day was the payment in Victorian times for female prisoners who wanted to earn some money! The students saw the names carved into the walls in the men's exercise yard and saw how much smaller the women's yard was. This was because of the lack of female prisoner's at the time. They also saw the gallows! We then took part in a contemporary court case based on a stabbing. Fatoumatta took her part of the judge very seriously and the prosecution barrister did her job well as the jury decided quite quickly that the defendant was guilty! The museum is open to the public and we would strongly recommend a visit!

Following this, we were assigned roles within a courtroom, assessed a case and then we had to decide if the suspect was guilty or not. This was really interesting as we were able to view the insights of an intense court room, this has started to opened doors to many opportunities of seeing how a real court case is run. - By Safa, Year 12 student



## NGA Pride Celebrations/Event

*By Miss Harvey, Teaching Assistant*

# NGA Pride Celebrations/Event

## 22<sup>nd</sup> June - 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023

Pride Month is a month-long celebration that recognizes the LGBTQ+ community and their contributions to society. It is a time to acknowledge the challenges faced by this community and to stand in solidarity with their fight for equality, acceptance and human rights.

At NGA we discussed in The Equality group alongside The Rainbow group how best we could raise awareness, empower to celebrate Pride Month.

We had wonderful activities which commenced with as follows: -

- Assemblies
- Tutor Quiz
- Rainbow cake sale
- Info stall
- Music at Lunchtime
- Rainbow non-school uniform Day
- A Huge display in the reception by Miss Harvey



**A huge Thank you! For all the cakes and cookies made and brought in by staff.**

**The sales raised £200 and this will go to local LGBTQ+ charity in Nottingham.**

<https://www.lgbtplusnotts.org.uk/>

It was fantastic to see so much colour in school, demonstrating our respect and tolerance for the LGBTQ+ community.

## P.E. Events

*By The P.E Department*

It has been a busy summer period in PE with Years 7,8 and 9 representing the school in a variety of sports activities. Year 7 attended the This Girl Can festival at Harvey Hadden. The girls had lots of fun completing a street dance workshop, dodgeball and many team challenges. Year 7 and 8 competed in the Nottingham Schools rounders competition and built upon their skills they had learned in their lessons.

Students from Year 8 and 9 completed the Going for Gold running challenge at Harvey Hadden. All students managed to achieve gold by completing 3 laps or more. Finally, students from Year 7,8 and 9 represented the school in the Inter-academy Athletics competition in Boston. We had our most successful year at the competition with the highlights being the Year 9 team coming second and Maya (Year 8) winning gold in the high jump. A very well done to everyone who has represented the school this year!



8 keen budding year 7s took the challenge of the Nottingham schools handball tournament. The students got off to a great start winning their first game comfortably 3-1, even with the nerves. The students then took the confidence of the first win into the second game winning 4-0. After a water break the students were back into their 3<sup>rd</sup> game. This was a tighter game for the girls, going one up in the first few minutes for the opposition to counterattack and bring the game back to a draw. NGA then bagged a second goal, only for this to be dis-allowed. However, this news only drove the students to come back fighting to secure a 2<sup>nd</sup> goal and the win. NGA went into the final game with a few tired red faces, but this didn't stop them from digging deeper and smashing the game 7-0 to secure the gold medal. Amazing effort you did NGA proud.

This year our House Captains have been working hard not only behind the scene to build the profile of our new house system that was launched at the beginning of this academic year but also planning new and exciting things to come.

I would like to say a huge congratulations on their work so far, from running bake sales and fundraising days to leading their tutor house with competitions, quiz's and many more. One main event that the house captains ran was the year 6 transition sports festival. The house leaders had to plan, set up and lead over 90 students in a sporting event. This event was planned in great detail that it ran very smoothly and they year 6 to our new year 7s had a great time.



**Congratulations to Scott house who were crowned the winners of NGA Sports Day 2023.**

**Well done to everyone who took part and supported, you were all amazing!**

Forced Marriage comic workshop

## PSHE

By Mrs Gangneux, PSHE Coordinator

This term we have focused on Careers in years 7, 8 and 10 and RSE in years 9 and 11. This is to make sure that the Careers information is rolled out earlier in the year to make sure they are fully informed for their option and post-16 choices.

Our PSHE drop down days will continue for year 11 in October 2023, and we will be holding our successful PSHE week in March 2024 for all other year groups.

As usual we will have our experienced and professional quality external providers in to support us in delivering the statutory content to our students, more details will follow in the spring term. In the meantime, if you wish to see any resources or look at our comprehensive programme, including information on how to withdraw your child from the sex education aspect, please look here: <https://www.nottinghamgirlsacademy.org/pshe>

## Equality Group

Equality Group have gone from strength to strength this year with our most successful year ever. What a credit these girls are to the school! This term we have:

- Hosted the Nottingham Citizens Young Persons Manifesto with Cllr David Mellen
- Joined the Racial Justice in Education campaign to hopefully reform the curriculum further and increase representation of all students in education in general.
- Taken part in the Positively Empowered Kids festival at Nottingham Racecourse to raise awareness of the need for better mental health provision in the city.
- Taken part in an exciting research project with Liverpool John Moore's university & researcher Hannah Baumeister on Forced Marriage. The research is helping to produce a comic strip that help tackle this emotive and illegal issue.

We have a few exciting projects in the pipeline, including working with the Mental Health Support Team in Nottingham to develop a mental health programme in school with our young people.

Equality Group members



Heidi Shewell-Cooper  
@HeidiShewell

Students @NottmGirlsAcad turning out again to keep track of @CitizensUK manifesto development as part of @NottinghamCitz Leadership Group. Injecting energy, ideas and humour. Vital members of the national Racial Justice in Education team. @RuthGangneux @r\_ramadan86 @WayneNorrie



Equality Group staff Mrs Harvey, Ms Mahmood and Mrs Gangneux

## Girlguiding

Are you looking for a new challenge? Would you like to try new things, learn new skills and have exciting adventures? Why not become a member of Girlguiding Nottinghamshire?

Girlguiding Nottinghamshire is part of Girlguiding, the largest organisation for girls and young women in the UK. It's a girls-only space, full of excitement and adventure! All girls have a home at Girlguiding - whoever they are, and wherever they are. This is a place where you can be yourself, get creative, explore, and most of all have fun. Where you'll make special friends and do things you never thought you could. As a member of Girlguiding, you can choose your own path and try many different exciting activities and events, together with brand new friends.

Girlguiding welcomes members to Guides (aged 10 to 14 years) and Rangers (aged 14 to years). We welcome members of all backgrounds and all religions. There are groups all over Nottingham, so there will be one which is close to you. To find your local group and to sign up, head to our website: <https://www.girlguidingnottinghamshire.org.uk/register-your-daughter/>

We can't wait to welcome you, so start your new adventure with Girlguiding Nottinghamshire today!  
#TeamNotts

