

APRIL 2019

HEADLINES

Termly parent newsletter from Northampton High School



Northampton High School - 1st Place 1m
NSEA County Championships 2019



WELCOME BACK

Dr Stringer, Headmistress

As I write this, the prospect of settling the vexed question of Britain's future relationship with the EU seems to recede ever further over the horizon. While the economic impact of this prolonged period of instability has presented enormous challenges to all of us, employers and employees alike, it has had one substantial benefit educationally – to re-ignite interest among young people in politics and current affairs. In my discussions with students, I am consistently impressed by the level of engagement displayed – and often find myself thinking that the new generation of would-be changemakers I meet could do a much better job of running the country than the hardy veterans we see on our TV screens! With this in mind, I am particularly pleased that the High School will be hosting BBC's Question Time on Thursday 9 May. There will be opportunities for girls to learn how this high-profile current affairs roadshow is put together and brought to our screens, while others will be able to join in the cut-and-thrust of debate.

Before I hand over to my colleagues to offer a round-up from the different parts of the school, I cannot resist adding a huge CONGRATULATIONS to our Equestrian Teams, who competed in the NSEA National Championships on Good Friday. The 1m team (Imogen Mitchell, Lily Roberts, Gemma Watts and Jodie Welton) came First and the 90cm team (Imy, Lily, Amelia Smart and Gemma) came 13th. Gemma Watts earned Second Place in the individual competition at 110cm. Many thanks to Mrs Hodgetts-Tate and to parents who supported the girls on the day.

A TERM TO ENJOY - JUNIOR SCHOOL

Caroline Petryszak

In the Junior School, the interests and needs of each individual girl lie at the heart of everything we do and this is evident in every classroom, from the individualised curricula of Kipper Room through to the differentiated lessons of Year 6. As a school, we celebrate the girls' personal interests and successes in achievement assemblies, and in other whole-school gatherings they are given the opportunity to perform and to talk more about their hobbies and beliefs. Later this term they will also have the chance to explore and share something of their past in Family History Week, which was deferred from a very busy Spring Term. There will also be the opportunity to celebrate and share sporting achievement and progress through sports and open swimming events, and new style end-of-year reports will encourage each girl to reflect on the highlights of her year and to consider next steps as she writes a summary section in her own words.



It's not just about the individual, of course, and girls are encouraged to work with others and to think about the needs and interests of the group as a whole, be it their friends, class, club, team, house or leadership group. This is not only imperative for their social development but also gives them a better sense of self as they consider their position in the community as a whole. Evidence of this came through a

Northampton High School Junior School

You are warmly invited to join us for the Year 5 & 6 production of:



Wednesday 1 May

4:30pm

Senior School Hall

Refreshments in the Dining Hall from
4:00pm

RSVP to junioradmin@nhs.gdst.net

School Council survey of extracurricular requests, which has determined many of the teacher-led clubs this term, and further development of the House system to encourage participation and mutual support across all year groups.

There is much to pique the interest of individuals and groups across all areas of the curriculum this term, too. We begin with Saturday's 'Creative and Performing Arts Day' and the upper KS2 'Play in a Week' and look forward to visiting authors and a focus on Mathematics (including an event for parents). Philosophy for Children (P4C) and Oracy have become an integral part of the junior school curriculum and both provide an ideal springboard for the development of individual and group thought and discussion. Year 6 will be the last of the KS2 groups to enjoy an adventure learning-based residential at Osmington Bay, but this is fitting as they come together to celebrate their memories of Junior School and to look forward to the future; they will have the opportunity to share these memories with the wider community in their valedictory assembly as they consider their individual and group journey. All others will have the chance to look to the future on 'moving up' day, too, but enough of that - there is a term of this year to enjoy first!

THERE IS MUCH TO PIQUE THE INTEREST OF INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS ACROSS ALL AREAS OF THE CURRICULUM

IGNITING THE IMAGINATION - SENIOR SCHOOL

Adèle O'Doherty

We have many opportunities to ignite the imagination of our students and one of the most powerful is through our assembly programme. We hold firm on our commitment to get the entire Senior School together for an assembly on Mondays and Fridays and consider this a special time for our community to share ideas and topics of interest as well as celebrating achievements of pupils and staff.



The spring term has seen assemblies on topics as diverse as 'Sexism within Classicism', Chinese New Year and Digital Leadership. We have given over some time at the beginning of our assemblies in the second half of term to celebrate the female composers after whom our refurbished music practice rooms are named. This led neatly into our celebration of International Women's Day where female composers were our chosen theme. We have also used some of the assemblies to give our prospective Student Leadership Team a platform to 'hust' in front of the school. Educational visits have been promoted and celebrated, most notably in Miss Mason's thought-provoking assembly on Rome and the value of seeing the history and art first hand.

What is most special about our assembly programme is the strong involvement of pupils in their preparation and delivery –it is daunting enough for a member of staff to stand in front of the school and delivery an assembly but doubly so for pupils to present to the school.

Nonetheless, they throw themselves into it with quiet confidence and enthusiasm. Whether it is the Ecoteam giving us an update on their work, solo musicians entertaining us or the numerous shared videos and personal accounts of visits and volunteering opportunities, we truly have our imaginations ignited twice a week.



**WE TRULY HAVE OUR IMAGINATIONS
IGNITED**

PREPARING THE WOMEN LEADERS OF TOMORROW – VIEWS FROM THE SIXTH FORM

Julia Cantwell

6.2 returned this week focused on revision for the exams which start in May. They have ambitious offers from a range of universities, some following NHS Alumnae to study, for example, International Relations at Leeds, Maths at Imperial, Medicine at Birmingham, Linguistics at York, Classics at Oxford and Psychology at UCL. Two students will be studying at Conservatoires next year. Others are breaking new ground studying Fashion Image Making and Design at Salford, International Hospitality Management at Oxford Brookes and Paramedicine at De Montfort. New departures also include a prestigious scholarship to study Popular Music at Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts for Teni Ramos and a coveted degree apprenticeship combining Computer Science at Birmingham with a lucrative digital technology partnership with PwC for Lucy Exley.



We look forward to celebrating the achievements and contribution to the school of our Class of 2019 at the Leavers' Reception in May when the NHS Laureates will be awarded. Perhaps inspired by school visits to a range of fascinating locations near and far, many of our students are planning exciting adventures after the exams have finished. We are delighted that our applicants for generous GDST Travel Scholarships have been given awards this year. Leyna Roy, who gained the Dr Lucy Campion Award, will be volunteering at a day care centre for young children in Sri Lanka, while Gigi Howard will be studying animal behaviour in a wildlife sanctuary in Namibia.



The 6.1 students are also branching out – through courses in the Electives programme, via an EPQ or MOOCs, and under the Young Enterprise or Philanthropy umbrellas – to build that all-important individual portfolio that will open doors in the future. Following our Higher Education Evening in February, they have been exploring options for Higher Education and Careers by participating in university masterclasses and the Careers Insight Days organised by GDST. Charlotte Ashby and Zaynah Younus participated in the prestigious Rosalind Franklin Women in STEM Conference at Newnham College Cambridge while our future journalists and media stars enjoyed an excellent workshop hosted by the BBC in Northampton. The World Class Universities Evening (7 May) will include a roadshow delivered by universities from the USA and Canada enabling them to explore the ever-more popular option of studying abroad.

THE 6.1 STUDENTS ARE ALSO BRANCHING OUT – THROUGH COURSES IN THE ELECTIVES PROGRAMME, VIA AN EPQ OR MOOCs, AND UNDER THE YOUNG ENTERPRISE OR PHILANTHROPY UMBRELLA

ALTHORP
FOOD & DRINK
FESTIVAL



11 & 12 MAY 2019



ALTHORP FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL - COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS

WE HAVE BEEN OFFERED
TWO PAIRS OF
COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS
FOR THIS EVENT, WHICH
TAKES PLACE AT ALTHORP
ON THE WEEKEND OF 11-12
MAY, AND WE WOULD LIKE
TO MAKE THESE AVAILABLE
TO PARENTS BY WAY OF A
PRIZE DRAW.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
ENTER THE DRAW, PLEASE
SEND YOUR NAME AND
CONTACT EMAIL TO

NHSADMIN@NHS.GDST.NET
- HEADING THE EMAIL
'ALTHORP FESTIVAL' -
BY 12 NOON ON TUESDAY 7
MAY

PEOPLE

Dr Helen Stringer

This term, we have said farewell to Mrs Gallyot in our Science Technicians' team, who left us to fulfil a long-held ambition to pursue a career in sealife conservation. She is replaced by Miss Hannah Needham. Mrs Williamson began her maternity leave in March and her role has been taken during her absence by Mrs Littlewood.

Congratulations to Mr Donaldson on the publication of his first book. 'Rain Town' is a novel for a teenage and adult readership and it has already attracted plaudits from reviewers and local media.

We will be featuring Mr Donaldson and his book in our Literary Festival, which takes place as part of our Arts Festival Season in June. Details of this and other events to follow.

"This novel is a wonderful and exciting debut from author, Andy Donaldson!"

Reader review from 'Bee',
Amazon, 17 March 2019

'Sidney Rain is an ordinary man with an ordinary job in an ordinary town. Except for the fact that sometimes at night he dresses up as a superhero and heads out living his fantasy. But he's putting on weight, about to lose his job and he's generally not feeling particularly super at all.

Stanley Rain is Sidney's 12 year old son. He's an ordinary boy with ordinary friends at an ordinary school. But that school is being taken over by a local entrepreneur and is changing for the worst. And Stanley is not going to let that happen without a fight.

When a mysterious theft takes place, Stanley and his friends will need to turn detective to help save their school. And after being fired at work by his new boss, Sidney will need his friends to help save his soul.'



YOUR VIEWS

Dr Helen Stringer



Many thanks to the many parents who responded to our recent online survey. We were very pleased with the level of participation and look forward to sharing the headlines of the results once we have had an opportunity to analyse them in full.

Next year, we are planning to host a Parents' Forum each term. This will provide an additional opportunity for you as parents to engage with us on a host of topics and also to get involved in organising some of our activities, whether for fundraising or just for fun, if you would like to do so. More details will follow from Mrs O'Doherty when the dates are set.

Please do remember, though, that I and my colleagues on the senior leadership team are always keen to receive your feedback. If you would like to discuss any aspect of school life, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

OPEN HOUSE

This seems a good point to extend an invitation to all current parents to our Open House on Friday 3 May from 8.00 am.

Do drop in before work or after the school-run for a brief chat over a cup of coffee and a pastry to find out more about the road ahead for your daughter.

If this time and date does not fit in with your busy lives but you would like to find out more, please do make an appointment with Mrs Brown (d.brown@nhs.gdst.net) and I would be very pleased to meet you at another time to suit you.

NUTS AND BOLTS

The introduction of a two-week half-term break in Autumn term, with an adjustment to spring holidays to compensate, has been broadly very well received by pupils, parents and staff alike. The 2019-20 term dates, which have already been confirmed, may be found on our website and are published weekly at the foot of our Newsletter. The provisional term dates for 2020-21 have now been agreed (below); these will be confirmed closer to the time but please do let me know if you have any comments on the model at this stage.

Who knows? Perhaps by September 2020, the future of Brexit will be clear...

Meanwhile, I wish you a healthy and happy summer term.

AUTUMN TERM 2020

THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

INSET

FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

INSET

MONDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

FIRST DAY OF TERM

MONDAY 19 OCTOBER

HALF TERM (2 WEEKS)

FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER

TERM ENDS

SPRING TERM 2021

FRIDAY 8 JANUARY

INSET

MONDAY 11 JANUARY

FIRST DAY OF TERM

MONDAY 15 FEBRUARY

HALF TERM (1 WEEK)

FRIDAY 26 MARCH

TERM ENDS

SUMMER TERM 2021

WEDNESDAY 14 APRIL

INSET

THURSDAY 15 APRIL

FIRST DAY OF TERM

MONDAY 31 MAY

HALF TERM (1 WEEK)

FRIDAY 17 JULY

TERM ENDS (12NOON)