



Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a very busy term here at NUSA. The Christmas tree is up and the festivities have started. On Monday, the whole school will be out on their Christmas Trips and will finish off the term on Tuesday with Christmas Celebration assemblies. Staff will be wearing their Christmas jumpers and students can come to school in non-uniform. Students will break up at 1pm.

May I take this opportunity thank you for your support this term and to wish you and your families a happy and peaceful holiday season. We look forward to seeing students back in school on Monday 4th January 2016!

Mrs M Whiteley

Senior Leader (Pastoral)

Children in Need

Firstly, I would like to congratulate every single student and member of staff who contributed to our most successful Children In Need yet. We had students in non-school uniform, and staff dress up as their childhood hero, all for a good cause.

Before the day began we had a visit from Pudsey, who visited the Wonder Room, afternoon tea and even learned to sign! The day itself included a double lunch, with activities such as throwing wet sponges at teachers, bake sales and henna, all ran by students. We also had a raffle that our very own Post-16 student Shane Brindley managed to raise over £300 for!



The main event included some very brave staff performing a Lip-sync to their favourite songs. They were recorded before-hand, edited by the talented Ms Sarris and Mr Colbourne and the video was shown cinema-style in the lecture theatre, for £1 a showing. This was so popular, that Year 11 asked to watch it again, as a reward for attending after school intervention last week!

We raised a massive £1563 on the day, rivalling any school in the Nottingham area! Well done all! Start saving for the next one, Comic Relief in 2016!

Year 7

Year 7 have consolidated their excellent start at NUSA by maintaining their high standards of attendance and behaviour and beginning to represent the school in a range of extra-curricular activities.

Football

The year boys took part in their first football tournament, a 5-a-side tournament at Power League. The competition saw wide representation from all city schools as the boys battled it out on a chilly and windy night! They completed a full and intense program of fixtures but unfortunately did not come away with any silverware this time. On to the next tournament, a 6-a-side competition spanning several evenings at Fernwood school.

Athletics

The boys and girls indoor athletics teams were also in action over the past couple of weeks at Ellis Guilford. They battled their way through a qualifying round or obstacle races, and a mixture of running, throwing and jumping events to reach the plate finals. Unfortunately the boys were just edged out of the medals but competed very well. Their effort and attitude are a credit to NUSA. The girls however, did bring home some medals!! Their excellent effort, attitude and competitive spirit over the two nights were rewarded with winning the bronze medals!

Tutor Groups

In school as standards in the classroom and around the building remain high, the second round of the tutor group competition is well underway. Last half term 7.4 took the title edging out 7.5 into second place and 7.6 into a creditable third. As we near the end of this half term 7.5 hold a two point lead over 7.4 and 7.3 who are tied in second!

Christmas

Year 7 pupils also have a lot to look forward to in the run up to Christmas. Pupils who maintained consistently high standards of behaviour are being rewarded with a pre-Christmas film in the lecture theatre. There will also be reward given out for those pupils with excellent attendance and homework and certificates to those pupils who have received the most credits this term. The grand finale will obviously be the Christmas trip!! This year pupils are fortunate enough to be going to Derby Theatre for their Panto production of Cinderella, which promises to be a brilliant day out for all!!

The Signing Choir

Every Wednesday after school a group of Year 7 and 8s have been meeting to learn sign language with one of the Communication Support workers from the Deaf Unit, Ms Powles. There are about fifteen members of the group, many of whom had never learnt any sign language before. In the last few weeks they have been learning the signs for the carol 'Silent Night'. On Friday afternoon, December 4th, the signing group entertained those attending the Head's Tea Party and others by signing the carol beautifully. They should be so proud of the progress they have made in such a short time.

Thank you to all those students and to the Year 10 AIM group and Ms. King who provided lovely refreshments after the performance and many thanks to Ms Powles for all her hard work in teaching the group.

Christmas School

Finally, although the Christmas break is usually a happy and joyful time for families, we recognise that a long holiday can cause difficulties. With this in mind the year 7 and 8 teams have joined up with the Literacy team to put on 6 days of Christmas school. This is an opportunity for pupils to attend school for the first six days of the Christmas holiday to take part in a varied, educational and festive program. Letter needs to be returned ASAP as places are limited!!

Year 8

We took two Key Stage 3 Trampolining Teams to a local competition. All competitors attended training after school and did very well. One of the teams came second overall, with Millie Moss receiving a gold medal for coming first in key stage 3 on an individual basis and Maddison Larcombe coming second overall. The pupils who competed were:

Team 1 (second place) Millie Moss, Maddison Larcombe, Katie Wilson, Millie Norman, Lilly Rose Leigh and Mya Mercer.

Team 2: Isabel Lane, Shelbie Harrison, Emily Mae Doyle, Megan Milnthorpe and Chelsea Fenwick

Bethany Willaims also came to compete on an individual basis and came 1st in the Key Stage 4 competition.



Year 9

A group of Year 9 girls have nearly completed 10 weeks intervention on Friday evenings. The girls have promoted the nationwide campaign 'This Girl Can' and have recreated their own version of the campaign video to promote their work. The girls led assemblies for all Year groups to encourage girls across the academy to get involved. 'This Girl Can' will run their first Dance session with Nott's County Coaches to engage our academy girls to be active. We are very proud of you girls, well done!

Progress Tests

Our year 9 pupils have worked hard over the last few weeks revising and have now completed their progress tests. The exams have been very important to assess each pupil's current attainment.

Rewards

Year 9 pupils have been rewarded with films in the lecture theatre for their efforts and hard work in lessons and the tutor group that's achieved the highest amount of credits have won the afternoon Christmas party.

NICAS (National Indoor Climbing Award Scheme)

Eight Year 9 and two Year 10 students have completed NICAS level 1 at the Indoor Climbing Centre Nottingham. The assessment involved all aspects of safety; such as checking the climber before climbing with a full harness and rope check. The second part was the full responsibility of controlling the climber whilst climbing a route. The qualification enables students to climb without supervision of an adult. What a fantastic achievement as this is not an easy qualification to obtain.



Year 10

Dodgeball



On Tuesday 24th November Mr James took a group of Year 10 GCSE PE students to the Nottinghamshire games Dodgeball tournament at Bluecoat School. Selected students had demonstrated not only high levels of throwing and catching skills but also exceptional agility. Our first game put us against Bulwell, with the games tied at 3 -3 NUSA lost on goal difference; throughout the games played we had one more player out. NUSA then won every other game except for the eventual champions Bluecoat who play a lot of dodgeball on their curriculum. The application and attitude of the Year 10 students was credited with a well-deserved bronze medal. Congratulations to all players involved.

An Inspector Calls

On the 11th November 34 Year 10 pupils went on a trip to see An Inspector Calls at the Theatre Royal in Nottingham. The day was a huge success, with all 34 pupils demonstrating exceptional behaviour and being wonderful ambassadors for the school. Before watching the performance, pupils took part in a workshop lead by actors in the performance. The workshop was a unique opportunity for pupils to ask questions and gain an insight into behind the scenes of a theatre performance. Some brave pupils were lucky enough to tread the boards and perform a scene on the stage; they did a fantastic job.



Personal Development

Year 10 had their first Personal Development day in November, where they became Drug Aware. This was very a successful day as the final survey completed showed that they had learned the skills required to keep themselves safe. Well done to the year 10 tutors and students who created an excellent learning atmosphere!

The next Personal Development day will be on the 10th December and will focus on students creating a CV and taking the first steps towards securing their own work experience placement.

Looking ahead after Christmas, within Personal Development, students will be celebrating diversity, people from a different culture, religion and background remembering our core British Values.

Year 11

An Inspector Calls

On the 10th of November almost all of our year 11 pupils went to see a performance of J.B Priestley's An Inspector Calls, directed by Stephen Daldry, at the Theatre Royal in Nottingham. Pupils are studying this as part of their GCSE English literature exam and were able to gain a great deal of knowledge from a live performance bringing alive what they were reading on a page. For many pupils this was their first experience of the theatre and they both enjoyed the performance and found the whole experience beneficial to their studies.

Wembley Trip

On Tuesday 17th November Mr James, Mr Watts and Mr Cooke took a group of 26 students from GCSE PE to watch the national side against a much fancied France. Due to the disastrous events in Paris just a few days before the fixture, the atmosphere was one filled with pride and emotion in addition to providing an opportunity to reflect on such a tragedy.

Prior to the game a minutes silence was held followed by the whole stadium singing the French National anthem. England fielded a very strong line up including Captain and star striker Wayne Rooney. France dominated early possession pinning England into their half, however 5 minutes before half time young Spurs midfielder Dele Ali broke the deadlock with a screamer that whistled into the top corner past Spurs team mate, Hugo Lloris in the French goal. The goal clearly inspired England and before some students had the opportunity to return to their seats, following half time interval, Captain Wayne Rooney finished with a simple side foot at the far post to give England breathing space. England won the game 2 – 0. NUSA students behaved impeccably and thoroughly enjoyed the England performance.

Parents evening

65% of Year 11 Students' Parents came to the Parent's Evening held on 18.11.15. The Progress Intervention evening was a massive success and another step to build on the Home – School relationship. A big focus was to set new targets for the students as we go into the final 7 months up to the end of Year 11.

Prom passes

Year 11 now have the additional incentive of Prom passes. They will receive; 50p per completed card for good behaviour, attendance to after school intervention, supporting others in lesson and producing good pieces of work. This goes towards money off their Prom ticket.

Mock exams

December 2015. All Year 11s have just completed their final mocks before the real exams start in January 2016.

After school intervention

Staff at NUSA produced a Lip sync video to raise money for Children in Need. It was a massive success raising over £300!!! The students enjoyed it so much that they chose it as their incentive reward in exchange for attending an after school intervention of their choice.

Work experience

Over **100 students took part in** Work experience either before the summer break or just before October half term. The pupils have really excelled in their placements and the feedback from employers has been fantastic.

Key Message

Please encourage your son/daughter to attend after school sessions. This will be followed up by the Achievement Champion that they have been assigned. If you would like to speak to your Child's Achievement Champion or unsure what this involves, please contact the school and ask to speak to a member of staff from the Year 11 Team; Mr Trimmingham, Mr James, Ms Harrison or Mr Atkinson.

NUSA Year 11 Key Dates 2016

The table below indicates the key dates for Year 11 between now and Easter. The summer exam series will begin shortly after Easter and students will be given personalised exam timetables once all entries and dates have been confirmed by the exam boards.

Spring Term Dates	Events (further events to be confirmed)
Monday 11 th January	English Literature Exam Paper 1 (11a3, 11a4 and 11b5)
Monday 18 th January	English Literature Exam Paper 1 (11a3, 11a4 and 11b5)
Monday 8 th February to Friday 12 th February	Intervention Week to support students
Monday 15 th February to Friday 19 th February	Half Term Intervention and support for Year 11
Thursday 24 th March	End of Spring Term

Summer Exams

The summer series exams for Year 11 will start on Tuesday 3rd May. Practical Exams in Performing Arts, GCSE Physical Education and Art will be before this date and will be confirmed by exam boards during the spring term. The final exam will be on Friday 24th June. These dates are provisional and are subject to change by exam boards.

Post 16

Year 12 sport students crash in on emergency services training event.

Year 12 BTEC Sport students were given the opportunity to support Nottinghamshire emergency services in November. More specifically, the students played the parts of casualties in a number of staged car crashes. This was a fantastic experience for the students who were able to witness first-hand the procedures and protocols the fire and ambulance services go through when they attend emergency situations. The trip also had a profound effect on the students who witnessed first-hand the devastating consequences of both drink driving and dangerous driving.



Post 16 students set the example

A group of ten Post 16 students have been recruited and trained to help promote a positive atmosphere around the academy at break and lunch times. Whilst on 'duty' the Post 16 students interact with main school students and serve as positive role models. The students themselves can be easily identified in their rather fetching 'Student Leader' green t-shirts.

Former Post 16 student closes in on regional award

The Post 16 department are delighted to announce that former BTEC Health & Social Care student Olivia Walker has been shortlisted for the Nottingham Evening Post, Sixth Form Student of the Year award. Olivia left NUSA in July 2015 having achieved a remarkable set of results i.e., Distinction*/ Distinction*/ Distinction*. She is now studying for a Psychology degree at Loughborough University. We will be keeping our finger crossed for Olivia on December 10th when the awards are given out.



ParentPay - our online payment service

We are pleased to announce that we will now be accepting payments online for items such as school trips and uniform alongside dinner money. Using the ParentPay website you will be able to pay online using your credit or debit card.

What are the benefits to parents and pupils?

- ParentPay is easy-to-use and will offer you the freedom to make online payments whenever and wherever you like, 24/7.
- The technology used is of the highest internet security available ensuring that your money will reach school safely – offering you peace of mind.
- Payments can be made by credit/debit card or also through PayPoint.
- Full payment histories and statements are available to you securely online at any time.
- Your children will not have to worry about losing money at school.

What are the benefits to our school?

Using ParentPay ensures that all financial transactions are safe and secure - helping us to remove costs associated with us having to manage cash securely on the school premises.

How to get started with ParentPay

We have sent out activation details to all parents but if you need a reminder please contact us and to find out more about ParentPay go to: www.parentpay.com/Parents

Overall attendance

Government targets for overall school attendance is 95% for every pupil. All pupils that fall under this percentage will be monitored. The persistent absentee percentage has changed this year from 85% and below to 90% and below. Pupils who have taken 7 days off by the Christmas holiday will fall into the persistent absentee category.

Lateness

If your child arrives late to school every day, their learning begins to suffer. Being late to school leads to lost learning time. Registers open at 8.45am and pupils are expected to be in their tutor room for that time. Pupils arriving after 8.45am will be marked with code L. Our register closes at 8.47am and pupils who arrive after this time are marked with a code U which is an unauthorised mark. Four U codes in a five week period could lead to a Penalty Notice being issued by the Local Authority.

Medical Appointments

At the moment we are having an increase of students who are signing out during the school day for medical appointments, or not attending for a full day. Where possible we ask that appointments be made out of school time. As a school we will not authorise all day medical appointments unless evidence is provided that the appointment has taken all day. We ask that pupils attend school prior to and after their appointments.

We are grateful to families who support us on this agenda. We are delighted that we will be awarding so many attendance certificates to students in our Christmas assemblies.

Just 17 days absence from school a year could mean a drop in a GCSE grade in all subjects!

The Venue

Looking for a venue to hold that next big party? Whether it be a simple hall hire for a disco, indoor space for a bouncy castle or the use of our 228 seater Lecture Theatre for a cinema themed birthday bash, look no further than The Venue at NUSA.

Almost all areas of the Academy are available for hire. The site has a full premises licence and we can even offer exceptional catering packages, prepared on site by our chef.

We also have a great range of clubs that hire both indoor and outdoor facilities at NUSA. So if you're looking to take up a sport in the New Year, why not contact us and see what's on offer.

Should you wish to enquire about the use of the schools facilities, contact the Academy on [0115 929 1492](tel:0115 929 1492) and ask to speak with Matt Colbourne.

