

Nottingham Girls' Academy



NOTTINGHAM
GIRLS'
ACADEMY

Robins Wood Road, Aspley, Nottingham NG8 3LD

T: 0115 7483410

W: www.nottinghamgirlsacademy.org



: admin@nottinghamgirlsacademy.org



: @NottmGirlsAcad



: @NottmGirlsAcad

Newsletter
May 2023

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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?

Summer Term 2022/2023

Last day of half term—Friday 26 May

Pupils return—Monday 5 June

Music Showcase—Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 June—7:00pm

Year 6 Transition evening—Monday 3 July—5:30pm to 6:30pm

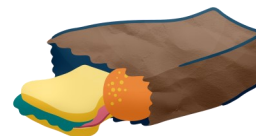
Year 6 Transition days—Tuesday 4 July and Wednesday 5 July

Last day of term—Thursday 27 July

INSET Day (Disaggregated) - Friday 28 July

Free School Meal Vouchers for the half term 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



UKMT Maths Challenge

By Mrs Booth, Head of Mathematics

Students from 2 of the year 8 classes took part in the UKMT maths challenge in April. Students from across the country take part, with awards being allocated to top 50% and a gold award given to the highest 8%. 15 students received an award with one student receiving gold with the highest score for the school!

We are so proud of those students who represented the school in the challenge!



Summer Uniform

Pupils are allowed to wear Summer Uniform from May half-term until the summer holiday each year.

Please see the academy website for more information:

<https://www.nottinghamgirlsacademy.org/uniform>

- White shirt or blouse (top button may be unfastened, shirt should be tucked in) or plain white polo shirt
- Black trousers or knee-length black skirt or knee-length, tailored, plain black shorts or skorts***
- Academy tie (optional – top button fastened if worn)
- Academy pullover (optional)
- A plain black cap or hat for outside wear only (optional)

**Skirts should be no shorter than knee-length and should not be fitted or a tight stretch material. Skater skirts are not suitable.*

**Jeans or jean-style trousers, cords, 'hipster' or tight-fitting trousers are not appropriate.*

**As a rule of thumb, trousers and skirts should be modest.*

***Shoes should be laced, buckled or slip-on. Velcro is not permitted.*

***Shoes should be water-resistant and able to take black shoe polish.*

***For safety, shoes must have a flat sole or a heel of no more than 2cm.*

****Tight fitting or lycra cycling style shorts are not permitted. An example of what is permitted is shown here.*



Kurling Tournament

By Ms Burke, Standards and Progress Lead Year 11

Thursday 11th May

Six AC students took on the sporting challenge at Harvey Hadden in the all-inclusive Kurling tournament.

The students started off very nervously, cautious of the unknown. However, despite the nerves they stepped up to the plate, starting off the tournament with a 4-3 win, against NUASt.

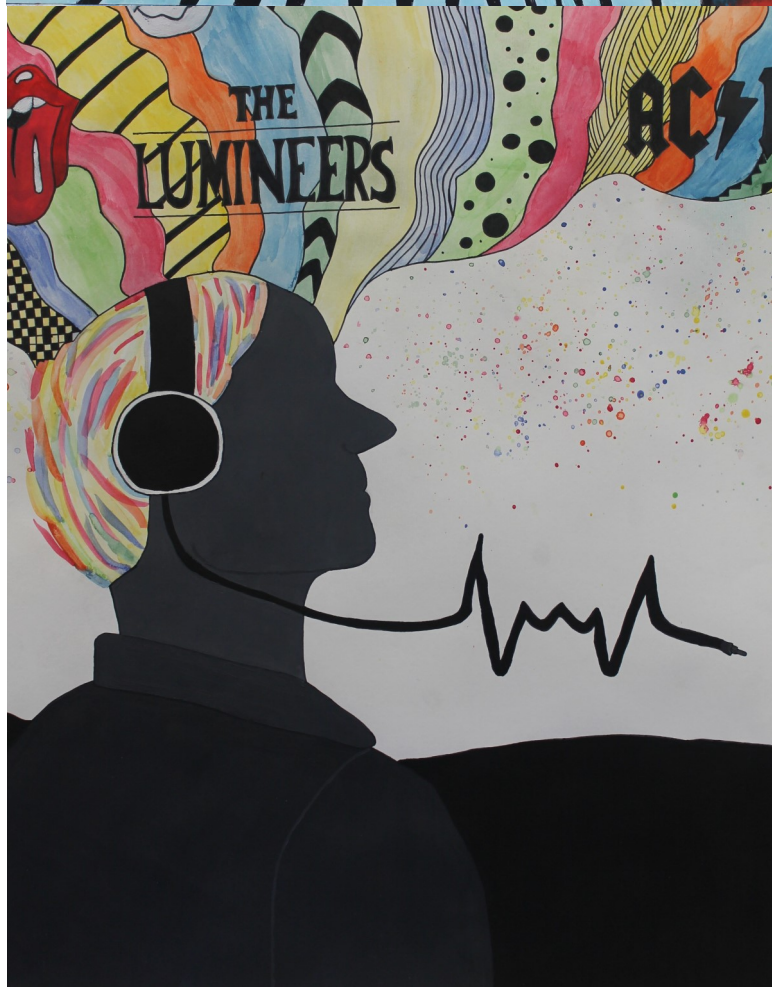
The winning streak continued through the tournament peaking in the 3rd game winning 7-0 against Wood Academy.

All students played a fantastic role throughout the morning, taking key shots to steal the points.

Well done, you should be very proud of yourselves.



GCSE & A Level Art



GCSE & A Level Art



Waterstones Reward Trip– 20 April 2023

By Mrs Allsopp, Librarian

On the afternoon of Thursday 20 April, Mrs Cox, our Literacy Teacher, and Mrs Allsopp, our Librarian, took nine of our brilliant pupils on a rewards trip to Waterstones in Nottingham.

The reward was for pupils who had left fabulous reviews, taken great leaps in their reading, or had borrowed a new book every week from our school library.

The pupils had a great look around Waterstones and after a lovely drink and a piece of cake - those pupils who were observing Ramadan took their cake and drinks home, so they didn't miss out on their extra treat!

Every pupil chose a book to take home and between them, chose 3 books for the school library too!

We had a fantastic time, and everyone loved their new books (and their cake!).



Pictured: Our pupils with Mrs Allsopp inside Waterstones with their books.



Pictured: Our pupils waiting for the bus back to school, with Mrs Cox and their book bags containing books (and some containing cake too)!

*We strive to fulfill
everyone's learning
potential*

Dance Showcase 2023

By Lauren, Y12 Student

This year's dance showcase theme was Truths and Lies. We started rehearsing in January after school in G13 and soon after started rehearsing at break times and lunchtimes. Rehearsals involved strength training and learning choreography. There were many different groups and dance styles involved including the Year 11 exam performance pieces, singers, lyrical dances, commercial dances and acrobatics.

Leading up to the final performances, we had dress and technical rehearsals as well as photocalls which helped us to know how everything was going to run. Overall, I think the showcase went great on both nights even though I hurt my foot during dress rehearsals.

My favourite part of the showcase was the finale as we were all on stage performing together and the vibes were good. The audience's feedback was good, and everyone enjoyed it. Some of the comments were "I really liked the costume for the Ex Wives dance", "I liked the singers", "I got goosebumps on the duet", "I have always been a musical and history lover, so seeing the Six and Hamilton performance was brilliant to watch"! I think the strengths of the performance were the Six dance, the singers and the Just Fine dance as I heard the most feedback on those.



Holocaust Education Programme Part 1

By Elizabeth, Y12 Student

My name is Elizabeth, and I am an A-Level History student at Nottingham Girls' Academy. In the March of this year, I was invited to participate in the Holocaust Education Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz program: a four-part program which aims to "increase knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust for young people and to clearly highlight what can happen if prejudice and racism become acceptable."

The course thus far has involved an initial orientation seminar, a one-day visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau, and a follow-up seminar in which myself and other participants reflected upon our experiences, and also witnessed a first-hand testimony from Holocaust survivor Eve Kugler. This article is one component of my fourth step - which involves taking initiative to raise awareness about the Holocaust within the broader community. At a later date, probably closer to Holocaust Memorial Day in January, I am also planning on delivering an assembly alongside another NGA student who participated in the program, Iris Woodward, who is also working on her own individual project aimed at raising awareness. One of the central goals of the course is to "Humanise" the Holocaust: or in other words, to ensure that the lives of those who were murdered are not reduced to statistics alienated from the truth of their individual experiences, and this is what this article will focus upon - as my experiences of this project, and specifically the trip, have cemented that viewing such a momentous tragedy as purely an assortment of death statistics will never truly capture the extent of what was lost.

Regularly, we hear of the Holocaust in terms of that fateful statistic - approximately 6 million European Jewish lives lost to Nazi genocide. And whilst this huge number does serve to add context to the severity of the Holocaust, it is of utmost importance that we do not end our discussions of the Holocaust with that number - because if we do, we reduce the Holocaust to a historical event with no connection to our present, when in truth, the relevance of the Holocaust to this day cannot be overstated. At the beginning of our trip to Oświęcim (the name which the area of Auschwitz often uses today), we stood atop a memorial where the Great Synagogue once was - prior to its desecration by the Nazis, who believed that once their disgusting plan was complete, any Jewish place of worship would become irrelevant. Over 400 artefacts representing Jewish culture were buried there just days before the Nazis destroyed the synagogue. This was not discovered until the early 2000s - when archaeologists discovered such varied artefacts as Hanukah candles, Torah scrolls, chandeliers, and furniture, all hidden beneath the ground. It is clear that the intention of the Nazis was to destroy any trace of the significance which this Synagogue had held to the community - it was a strong mechanism in protecting social cohesion, for Jewish and non-Jewish people alike, and somewhere people regularly gathered for a variety of celebrations - and that at the core of their ideology was not only the eradication of Jewish people as individuals, but of all history and culture that surrounded them in the public's memories. This also emphasised the importance of retaining a memory of Jewish practices and traditions beyond the Holocaust - something which is important for reasons described within David Cesarani's Holocaust textbook which was used as background reading for one of our seminars: "Jews are (sometimes) associated with suffering and death at the expense of recalling Jewish culture and celebrating the Jewish present." This is not something which should be allowed to happen - we should be learning to embrace the rich history of Judaism beyond the tragedies which they were victims of. Jewish people in Europe participated in all kinds of work, at various social ranks, and lived a wide variety of lives - a fact which the perpetual anti-Semitic media stereotype of Jews as universally greedy, power-hungry and controlling continues to neglect to this day, further proving that certain damages to culture caused by the Holocaust continue to run rife in society - and I implore everybody who is reading this to think critically about the media which they consume which could be contributing to these stereotypes.

Holocaust Education Programme Part 2

By Elizabeth, Y12 Student

Furthermore, it is all too common that Jewish Holocaust victims are viewed as a monolith: one singular, helpless, entity, reinforcing the aforementioned association between Judaism and pure tragedy - when in truth, the stories of individuals and their reactions to the Holocaust differ hugely. One example who was focused upon during the trip was a passage by Primo Levi which concerned the idea of spiritual resistance: as many victims desperately tried to maintain basic hygiene where possible, and would pray in secret, in an attempt to at least retain some internal sense of normalcy as their external rights and freedoms had been stripped away. Echoes of this resistance still exist today, as I discovered through the attitude which Israeli Jewish groups who were visiting Auschwitz at the same time as our group took towards the camps - rather than being quiet in the same sense that our group was, they often sang and shouted - something which was described to us as their way of stating that, despite the tragedy and the desperate Nazi attempts at destroying their culture, they and their culture were still alive, in an ever-diversifying world which, despite setbacks, is progressively becoming more accepting of difference.

The testimony which was also presented to us - given by Holocaust survivor Eve Kugler, born in 1931 - presented to me the effects of the Holocaust over those who may not have been directly in the camps, but whose lives were nonetheless changed irrevocably by Nazi evil. Though Kugler and her sisters were able to escape direct targeting by the Nazis through moving between homes for displaced children in France and foster homes in America, their experiences of life nonetheless began with being separated from their families for reasons which no child should have to comprehend - and it is also important to remember that the influence of the Holocaust spread far beyond the confines of the camps. Her testimony also presented me with the extent to which Nazi ideology had infiltrated life in Nazi Germany even before the creation of death camps: she recounted that before screenings of films at the cinema, there would be a required, routine Nazi salute: even within the confines of a supposedly safe environment like a cinema, there was no escape from the influence of the group whose ideology sought to eradicate her family and way of life. You can read more about Kugler's life and experiences through her website, Shattered Crystals. She ended her testimony with a statement which I would also like to end my article on: "Make friends with people who are different. Tell your friends and family about what happened." I am sure that we can all agree that this is a beautiful sentiment which should echo through the ages. Never again means never again.



World Book Day Activities - 2 March 2023

By Mrs Allsopp, Librarian

World Book Day was a wonderful day here at NGA! We had activities galore, especially in the library!

Lunch time was packed full of pupils doing crafting activities, with bookmark making and loo-roll character making, at the top of the list!

More than 30 members of staff took the opportunity to dress up as their favourite book character for the day and the atmosphere around school was amazing! What a fantastic day!



Pictured: Some of our brilliant staff dressed up

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