

Nottingham Girls' Academy

Newsletter
October 2019

Robins Wood Road, Aspley, Nottingham NG8 3LD

T: 0115 7483410

W: www.nottinghamgirlsacademy.org



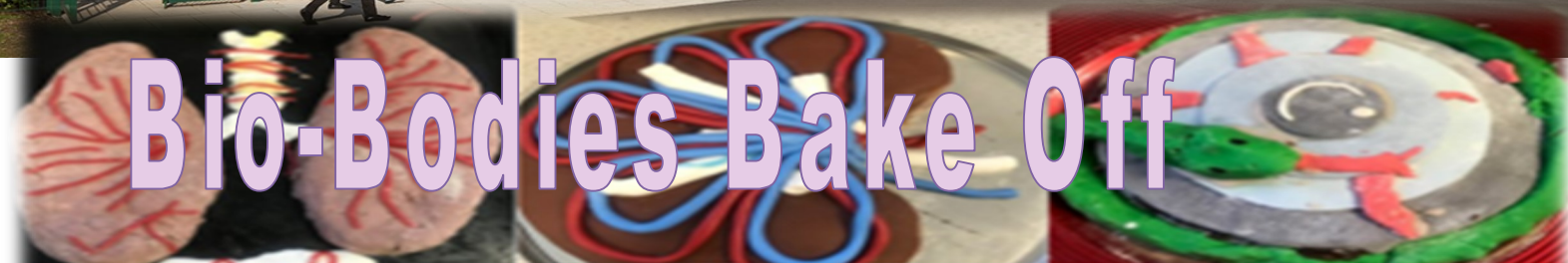
: admin@nottinghamgirlsacademy.org



: @NottmGirlsAcad



Bio-Bodies Bake Off



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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 2019/20

Last day of Half Term: Friday 25 October

This is a non-uniform day. We ask pupils and staff to donate £1 which will go to Breast Cancer Now.

Half Term: Monday 28 October—Friday 1 November

Pupils return on Monday 4 November

Year 11 mock examinations: weeks commencing 4 and 11 November

School Show: 10, 11, 12 and 13 December

Year 11 and Year 13 Parents' evening: Wednesday 18 December between 3:30-6:30pm

Last Day of Term: Friday 20 December

This is a non-uniform day. We ask pupils and staff to donate £1 which will go to a chosen charity.

Pupils will be dismissed at 1:05pm

Open Evening 2019

On Monday 23 September we received wonderful feedback following a successful Open Evening held for Year 5 and 6 parents. A reminder to any Year 6 parents, the deadline for applications into Year 7 in September 2020 is **31 October 2019**. Apply online via: www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/schooladmissions



G13 Training with Take One Dance Studios

By Mariam, Y12 student

G13 is the Academy's gifted and talented dance company and we rehearse every week, working on technique and a variety of different dance styles. For the past four weeks we have been given the opportunity to be trained by Anna from Take One dance school which has helped us gain more knowledge and understanding of different dance styles. The routines have focused on different styles each week and has allowed us to learn a range of different skills to help us become better dancers and performers. For example, she has challenged us with a variety of commercial styles such as house, street and hip hop. She has also challenged us to work outside of our comfort zone by encouraging us to work with dancers of different skill levels and ages in G13. During these few weeks I have gained an understanding that each style is a mix of more than one style and am enjoying learning in a different way. We are now starting a whole group dance which we will build on each week and I have decided to use this as part of my Year 12 dance assessment.



We value high standards, hard work and a ceaseless desire to improve

School Show 2019 - 'Peter Pan'

By Miss Hawley, Head of Performing Arts Faculty

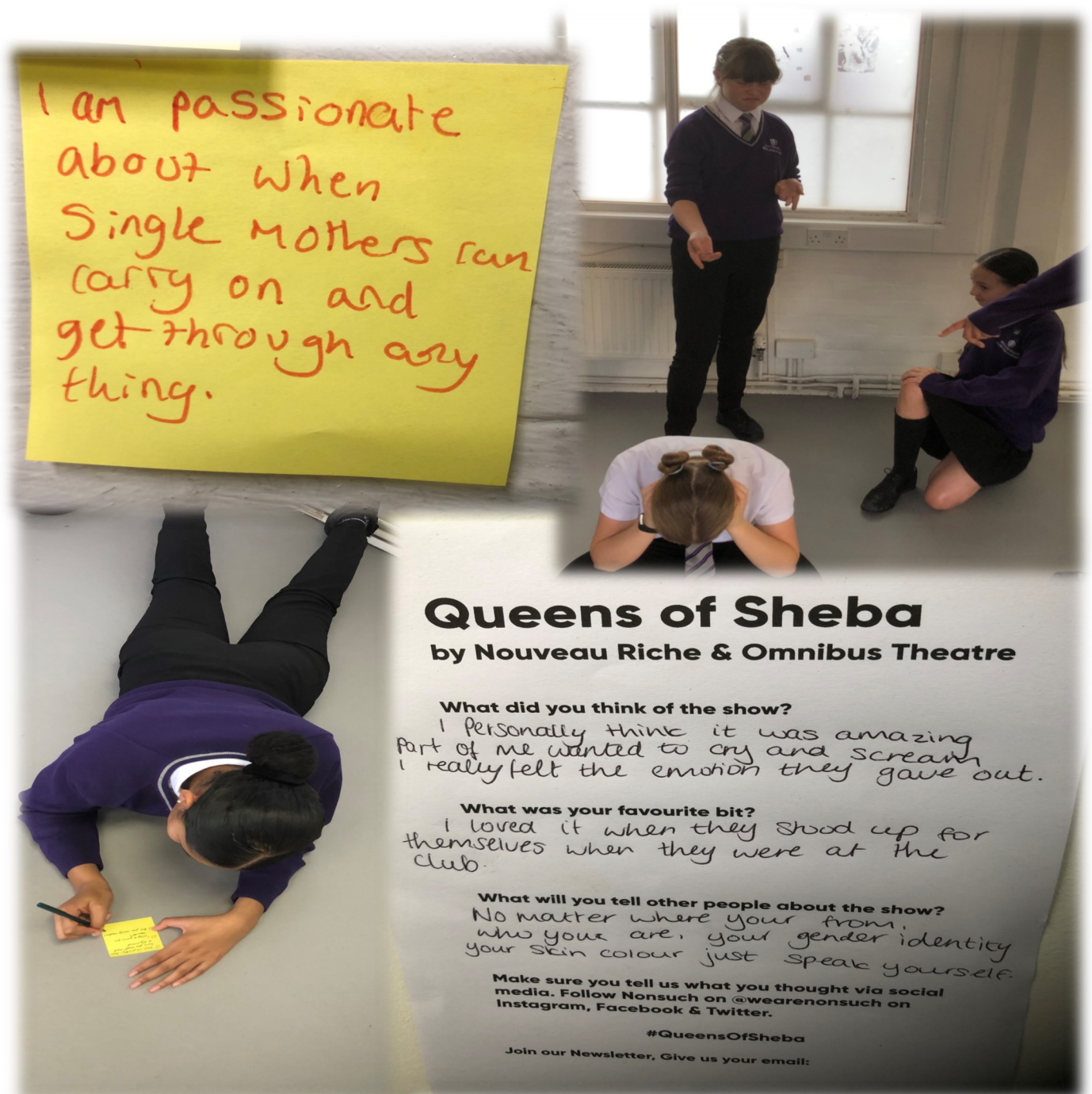
Rehearsals are now well underway for this year's school show, 'Peter Pan'. Pupils and staff are working incredibly hard to make this show fantastic and have already been in school at weekends and will be rehearsing during the half term too. The show is on 10, 11, 12 and 13 December at 7pm. Tickets will be on sale at the end of November and information on this will be made available to you nearer the time.



Queens of Sheba

By the Performing Arts Faculty

On Wednesday 9 October 2019 we took 100 Year 9s to Nonsuch Studios to see 'Queens of Sheba'. 'Queens of Sheba' tells the hilarious, moving and uplifting stories of four passionate black women battling everyday misogyny – where sexism meets racism. Pupils watched the show and then split into four groups, one with each actor to take part in a workshop. All pupils had a great time, got involved and returned to school with a smile on their face.



*We strive to fulfill
everyone's learning
potential*

Capital One HR Business Partner Visit

By Mr Glover, Teacher of Computing and Business



Katy Kasper

HR Business Partner
Washington DC Metro Area

NGA was delighted to welcome Katy Kasper, HR Business Partner, who is a strategic communicator and innovative problem-solver from the Washington DC branch of Capital One USA, to hold an educational talk with our sixth form Business students. Katy was extremely impressed with the students and valued their contributions during the talk.

This term, students have studied a variety of HR related topics:

- Recruitment
- Compensation
- Benefits
- Payroll
- Operations
- Employee relations
- Learning and development
- Organisational design
- Talent management
- Performance management
- Diversity and inclusion
- Change management
- Business partner/consulting

The activities and discussions around these key business topics brought real-world experience and high level problem-solving techniques and decision-making activities into our business lesson. Thanks to Mr A Gaskell (Head of Computing and Business) and Mrs J Saunders (Careers and Employability Lead) for their help in organising this event.

Ada Lovelace Event

By Miss Green, Second in Science

A group of fifteen Year 7 and 8 pupils got the chance to take part in the Ada Lovelace event where they got to work with and experience activities with Rolls Royce, Twycross Zoo and Azotic Technologies.

The event was designed to increase the visibility of women in STEM and create new role models for those considering their future career options. In the picture below, pupils are working as a team to build a roller coaster out of foam tubing.



Biology Week 2019

By Miss Green, Second in Science

Pupils had the opportunity to have a go at a range of lunchtime activities to help celebrate National Biology week. Activities included edible bugs, microscopes, dissections, can you taste the difference and the bio health lab.



Nottingham Girls' Academy receives a prestigious British Council National eTwinning Award

By Miss Moreno, Coordinator of PSHE

Teachers and students at Nottingham Girls' Academy have been celebrating after being awarded the highly regarded British Council eTwinning National Award. Teachers from across all four regions of the UK came together from Friday 27 September until Sunday 29 September 2019 to celebrate the 14th annual British Council eTwinning National Conference, which was held for the first time at The Crowne Plaza in Nottingham.

The eTwinning National Award ceremony took place at a Gala dinner on the Saturday, recognising outstanding international projects led by UK schools. There were 12 awards presented across various categories and one award for the overall winning project.

To secure the award, NGA worked in partnership with IESO Sierra la Mesta, Santa Amalia in Spain to create an outstanding project using digital collaborative tools. The project entailed using languages to raise awareness about social issues that affect our society these days and scored highly against each criteria of the pedagogical framework below:

- Pedagogical innovation
- Curricular integration
- Communication and exchange between partner schools
- Collaboration between partner schools
- Use of technology
- Results, impact and documentation



eTwinning, the digital community for schools, has seen over 700,000 teachers from 44 countries across Europe and beyond register since 2005. The programme is funded by the European Commission as part of the Erasmus+ programme and managed in the UK by the British Council. The eTwinning National Award is issued to schools that produce outstanding work as part of their eTwinning partnership.

Miss Moreno, Coordinator of PSHE at Nottingham Girls' Academy, said: *"We are delighted to have been awarded the eTwinning National Award. Everyone at Nottingham Girls' Academy has enjoyed working with IESO Sierra la Mesta on Global Smiles. To secure the eTwinning National Award is a real honour for the pupils and teachers who participated in the project. The eTwinning project has brought a wide range of skills, language learning and global awareness to pupils, parents and the whole school community involved in the fundraising events at the end of our project."*

The judging panel's comments for the winning project were:

"This smiley project is a very comprehensive, well-planned and delivered eTwinning project. Using combined international teams, community involvement, with many aspects student led, it develops language skills while addressing current and pressing issues. High quality cross-curricular activities supported by a very comprehensive resource set has added immensely to the quality, high impact outcomes achieved. This is a resource rich and highly impactful eTwinning project."

Mr D Tungate, Principal at Nottingham Girls' Academy, said:

"We are thrilled that Nazareth's hard work and dedication has been recognised in such a positive way. The project she has led has done so much to build strong, long lasting ties and friendships between our pupils and those in Spain. It helps them develop language but, more importantly, a much richer understanding of their shared views and approaches to social and global issues, despite their different backgrounds, cultures and countries. At a time when it can feel like we are pulling further away from the rest of Europe, it is so encouraging to see the next generation continue to build bridges anyway."

Macmillan Cake Sale

By Miss Moreno, Coordinator of PSHE

NGA joined in the...

WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE MORNING

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

Cake Sale
Last Friday
11 October



Friday 11
October

You raised £125 in 15 minutes!!!

Well done to everyone who bought cakes, students & staff who contributed them and especially the contributors from the 'Bio-Bodies Bake Off'

Equation

By Miss Moreno, Coordinator of PSHE

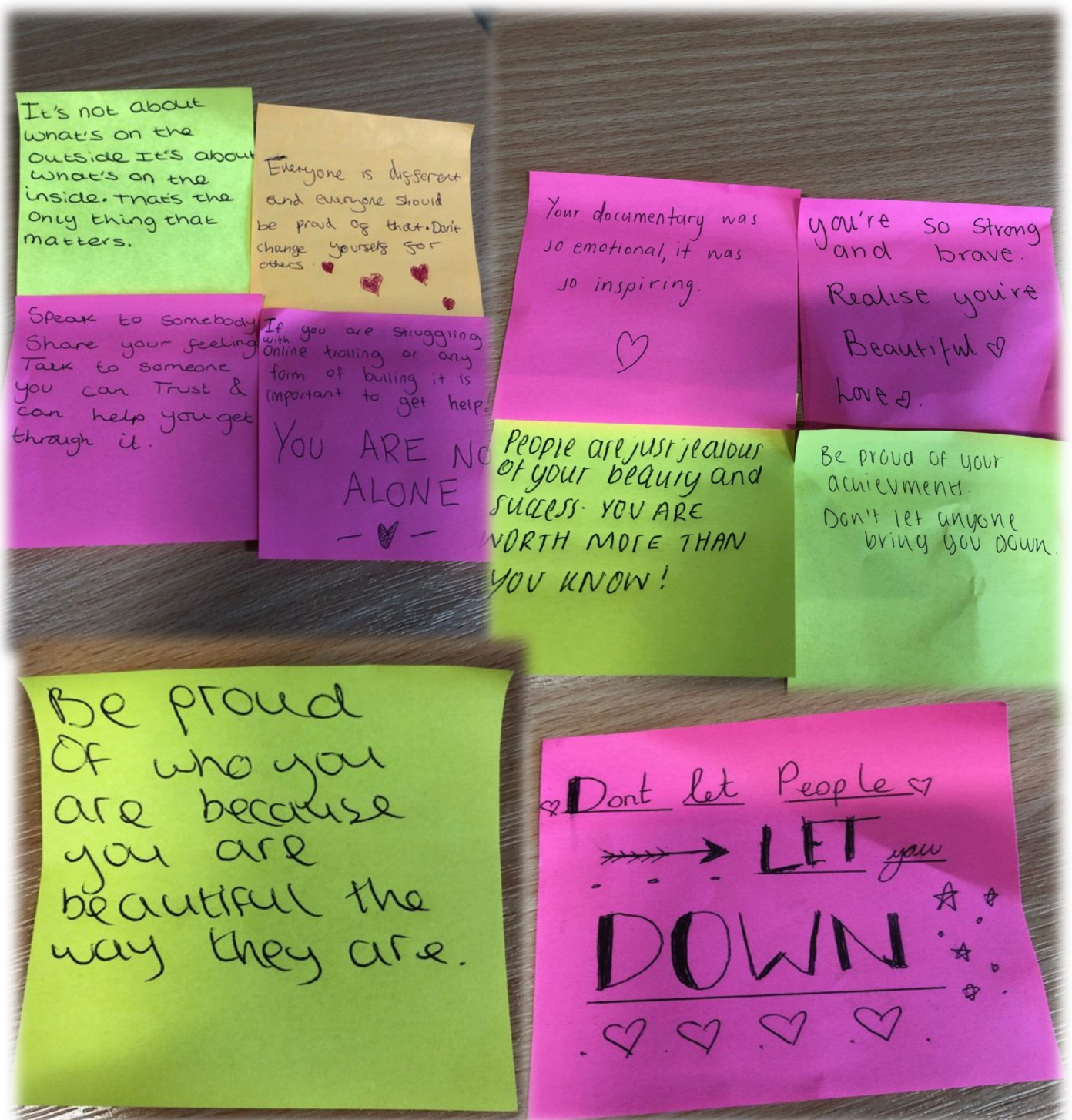
On Thursday 10 October Year 8 had a lesson with Equation learning about what teen abuse is. Equation is a charity equipping, enabling and empowering communities to build equal relationships free from abuse.



Year 9 PSHE Day

By Mrs Budding, Head of Year 9

On Thursday 26 September 2019, Year 9 took part in a PSHE day. Pupils participated in various workshops, including the effects of social media. Pupils were asked to write messages to Jesy Nelson after watching her documentary, "Odd One Out".



NGA at UKCW 2019

By Mr Traylor, Teacher of Technology

At Nottingham Girls' Academy we're proud to say we have many girls who view architecture, housing design and associated professions as real career aspirations. Thanks to our link with MOBIE (Ministry of Building, Innovation and Education), they have an ideal opportunity to be able to follow this ambition. Our history with MOBIE includes winning the first modular housing design challenge which took place in March 2018, being invited to spend a day in London with Grimshaw Architects in their Clerkenwell offices and being invited to be student ambassadors for MOBIE at last year's UK Construction Week show at the NEC in Birmingham.



On Wednesday 9 October this year, MOBIE invited us to join them again at UKCW 2019 to take part in a short challenge they were running for the students of the colleges and universities that were also attending. We took 13 excited pupils from Years 7 to 11 to take part and meet the MOBIE team and they split themselves into groups to undertake the task. Each of those teams stood and presented their ideas to Mark Southgate (MOBIE CEO) and Gerry Ruffles (MOBIE Head of Education) amongst others, all of whom were stunned by the fantastic thoughts and ideas put forward by the girls. Mark and Gerry are making plans to visit NGA to talk to our pupils later in the school year.

We also had another agenda in visiting UKCW this year. As mentioned in the press, the Greenwood Academies Trust are going to be building a new primary school in Nottingham but it is intended to be a beacon of ecologically sound and environmentally friendly design. They are intending to have pupils from NGA involved in the process and I'm excited that around 25 pupils have enthusiastically volunteered to get involved. As well as meeting with MOBIE, our focus was to tour the show looking for stands exhibiting and promoting eco technologies and getting information to bring back and present at meetings about the build. In this, our pupils excelled and made us extremely proud. Not only did they make some very rational and mature decisions, they also took the lead in approaching the exhibitors to ask questions. I watched faces at every stand change from ones that were expecting children to be asking childish questions, to shock at the maturity of what they were actually asked and then saw them answer those questions as they would to any adult member of the construction industry. Our girls knew what they wanted to ask and made sure they got the answers. Without fail, every stand told me what wonderfully polite and mature pupils we had and what brilliant questions they'd asked.

Later, I took a small group of our older pupils to the Innovation Hub showcasing some of the latest innovations and they chose one particular exhibit to look at more closely. The inventor, someone in the highest echelon of engineering, was explaining how the item was designed to prevent non-degradable waste from entering the waterways when one of our pupils asked him a question that no other pupil at the show, whether at college or university, had asked, leading him to say what a bright future she would have in engineering.

With Greta Thunberg being so widely in the news and with such a movement of young people looking to make a difference, our girls showed that they have the drive and understanding to be able to do it.

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Oak Trees at NGA

By Mr Marshall, Head of Science Faculty

Robin Hood Energy have kick-started their campaign to plant 300 English oak trees in Nottingham by donating free trees to local schools and community groups.

Climate change is undeniable and, as an energy company, they have both a greater responsibility and opportunity to have a positive and dramatic effect on the amount of CO₂ this country produces. Since July 2018 they only offer 100% green electricity to all their customers, but they want to do more so they're starting with local communities here in Nottingham.

They started by handing out almost 50 English oak trees, the most effective carbon dioxide absorbers, to Nottingham residents at the Nottingham Green Festival on 15 September and then on to various schools around the city, including 4 trees at Nottingham Girls' Academy.

The NGA Eco-Warrior group helped plant the trees, with the help of Robin Hood himself.



**We strive to fulfill
everyone's learning
potential**

ideagen

By Mrs Saunders, Careers and Employability Lead, and Mr Gaskell, Head of Computing and Business

ideagen has teamed up with Nottingham Girls' Academy to raise career prospects for women who want a career in technology as part of the 'ideagen Women in Tech' programme.

Nottingham Girls' Academy has created a careers strategy focusing on challenging gender stereotypes, with the purpose of increasing the rate of girls embarking into science, technology, engineering, arts and maths (STEAM) careers.

Pupils will conduct cloud and collaborative computing projects, complete work experience placements and take part in 'Internet of Everything' coursework for a product idea. There will also be curriculum learning on the fundamentals of information technology (IT), virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) technologies, a careers networking session with ideagen professionals and chances to win prizes through a challenging technology project. The programme also includes targeted support for students at key transition points throughout their secondary and sixth form education.

The programme with ideagen – which is part of a wider initiative involving The Futures Group, D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership, The Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) and Greenwood Academies Trust – involves all year groups in the school. It will also provide digital tech expertise and experiences to the new T-Level qualification being delivered in the sixth form.

ideagen's CEO, Ben Dorks, who has been an Enterprise advisor for Nottingham City Schools since 2017, insists encouraging more women into technology careers is a personal passion. He said, *"It is vitally important that we at ideagen, as a local employer and a successful and consistently growing technology leader in the global governance, risk and compliance (GRC) space, do all we can to encourage young people – and particularly young women – into careers in technology."*

"Gender stereotypes and the low uptake on technology-related studies and subsequent careers for females are well-documented. However, what firms such as ourselves can do is change that through ambitious, well-planned and collaborative projects such as the ideagen Women in Tech programme."

"This subject has been a personal passion for a number of years now, and I am delighted and privileged to be in a position to encourage more women into a career in technology."

"This is a truly fantastic initiative and I am particularly pleased to be working alongside Nottingham Girls' Academy in bringing this project to fruition."

The 'ideagen Women in Tech' programme will see students of Nottingham Girls' Academy take part in several sessions and projects throughout each academic year.

Mrs Saunders, Careers and Employability Lead, added, *"We are excited to be part of this project as we know that future employment will involve our pupils building on their understanding of technology and its role in the workforce."*

"This project enables a large cross-section of our pupils to gain experience of how technology will impact their lives. Opening up discussions around career paths and helping our pupils reach their full potential is what we strive for at not just the Academy but at a Trust level."

Mr Gaskell, Head of Computing and Business, said, *"Girls and women are under-represented within STEAM subjects and employment."*

"ideagen is ideally placed to offer a variety of unique experiences to our students both in school and at their offices. By seeing women in these roles and also becoming aware of the huge variety of tech roles that are available, this endeavour will encourage and support our girls to enter this exciting and challenging field."



Year 13 Trip to The University of Nottingham

By Miss Short, Head of Sixth Form

Following examination success in the summer, we now look to our current Year 13 cohort to support them with their future achievements. As part of careers support, Year 13 visited The University of Nottingham to explore option choices and gain an understanding of the financial support and challenges that can be faced if moving away from home. As part of the visit, students were involved in a tour of the campus as well as engaging in a budgeting task, with some very ambitious budgets!

A reminder that our school UCAS deadline is **Monday 16 December**. Students have been receiving one to one support from their tutors and IntoUniversity staff for their applications.

Further careers support for apprenticeships and employment advice can be gained through Mrs Saunders and appointments with Futures and DANCOP.

We wish Year 13 all the best with their applications.

GCSE Results Day 2019

Once again, Year 11 pupils from Nottingham Girls' Academy celebrated excellent GCSE results in August. The Academy continued its reputation for strong academic GCSE performance, with 30% of pupils achieving the 'gold standard' of the English Baccalaureate.

The provisional school performance tables place Nottingham Girl's Academy as the third best performing school in the city based on progress.

This consolidates the progress made by pupils last year, which was amongst the best in the county and saw Nottingham Girls' Academy rated as the best school in Nottingham in the 'Real Schools Guide'.

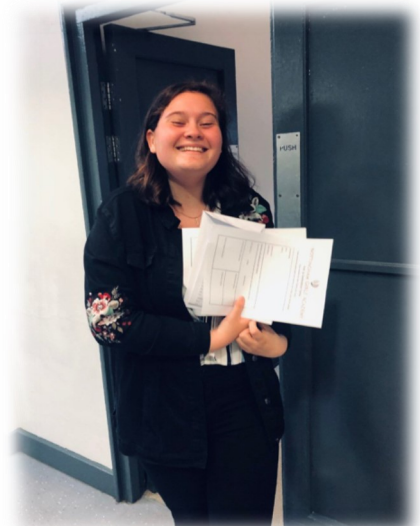
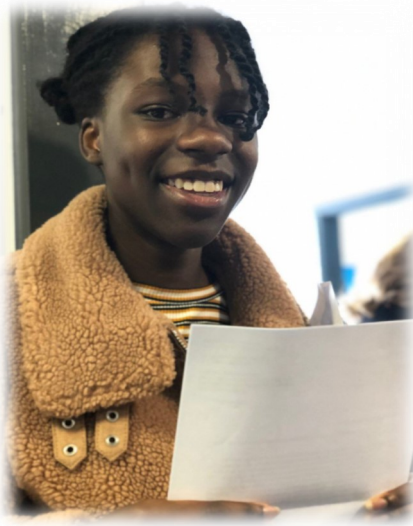
David Tungate, Principal of Nottingham Girls' Academy, said:

"I love celebrating our pupils' success on GCSE results day.

The effort, tenacity and resilience required to complete the examinations – let alone with the high levels of attainment many of our pupils have done – is phenomenal with these new style examination courses.

Of course our pupils rightly take the credit for their success, but I would also like to thank their teachers and parents who have been their personal trainers, motivation coaches and shoulders to cry on.

I am exceptionally proud of our pupils, staff and community. Well done to all of you!"



A Level Results Day 2019

Schools' Minister praises Nottingham Girls' Academy for exceptional A Level results

Building on the success of previous years, NGA saw an increased number of pupils receiving strong A Level and Level 3 vocational results this year.

More than 75% of pupils achieved A*-C or equivalent, and more than 25% of the pupils sitting A Levels achieving AAB or better.

Numerous students received offers from the leading Russell Group universities, including from Sheffield, Birmingham and Nottingham.

The results even drew praise from the Minister for Schools, Lord Agnew, who said:

"Congratulations to all the pupils and staff at Nottingham Girls' Academy, and the wider team at Greenwood Academies Trust, on reaching the culmination of so much hard work. A level results day marks the moment so many young people will make choices that can shape the rest of their lives, so whatever path they choose, every pupil at Nottingham Girls' Academy should do so full of confidence."



David Tungate, Principal of Nottingham Girls' Academy, said:

"We are delighted with the girls' achievements and are very proud of them. Once again, the combination of academic rigour, a strong vocational offer, extra-curricular opportunity and high-quality pastoral support means that the sixth form at the Academy has inspired these young women to achieve brilliantly."

"I am very proud of what they have achieved and wish them every success in the next stage of their lives, whether they are going to top universities, into high-quality apprenticeships or into their dream jobs. Their achievements underline why we do what we do."

"Our 11-16 school is over-subscribed and our results today will only add to the popularity of our sixth form too."

Wayne Norrie, CEO of Greenwood Academies Trust, said:

"I am incredibly proud of the pupils and staff across the Trust today and share in their excitement for their great results. As a Trust, we are committed to providing the highest quality teaching and curriculum for our pupils, and it's wonderful to see this reflected in today's achievements and Lord Agnew's praise of Nottingham Girls' Academy."

"I look forward to seeing what the next challenge is for many of our pupils and I would like to wish them every success in their future endeavours."

Twitter

Keep up to date with all the news and exciting events happening at NGA via our Twitter feed by following: @NottmGirlsAcad




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