



# Nottingham Girls' Academy

Newsletter  
December 2019

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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**

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

Last Day of Autumn Term: Friday 20 December

*This is a non-uniform day. We ask pupils and staff to donate 50p which will go to a chosen charity.*

Pupils will be dismissed at 1:05pm

### **Spring Term 2019/20**

Staff INSET Day: Monday 6 January 2020

### **Pupils return on Tuesday 7 January**

Year 9 Parents and Options' evening: Wednesday 15 January between 3:30-6:30pm

Year 13 Mock examinations—week commencing 3 February

Half term: Monday 17 February—Friday 21 February

Staff INSET Day: Monday 24 February

### **Pupils return on Tuesday 25 February**

Year 11 and Year 12 Mock examinations: commencing 25 February until 6 March

Year 10 and Year 12 Parents' evening: Wednesday 25 March between 3:30-6:30pm

## Bee Like Me - Year 9 Careers Morning

*By Mrs Saunders, Employability and Careers Co-ordinator*



Year 9 spent a morning talking with women from the world of work. We had representatives from the army, the NHS, Pepsico, ideagen, Sustainable Water, Solvay Composite Materials, The University of Nottingham midwifery and life sciences schools, G F Tomlinson, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire, as well as an accountant. The pupils heard about their career journeys and the varied roles some of our speakers have had. They heard from people who had started their own businesses as well as people who work for large organisations. One of our speakers had been involved in the organisation of the Rio Olympics, whilst another researches into brain tumours for a charity. Pupils heard about what a midwife does as well as having the opportunity to try on and find out what goes into the packs a soldier might carry. Being involved in developing technology was also featured, with a chemical engineer bringing in examples of materials used to make bikes and prosthetic legs and someone else explaining how she goes about developing apps for a local tech company. We are very grateful for all of our speakers for giving up their time to do this.

## Nottinghamshire Live Education Awards 2019

Congratulations to our four finalists in the Nottinghamshire Live Education Awards which were held at the Crowne Plaza on Wednesday 11 December (from left to right, Mariam (Year 10), Miss Harper, Mr Tungate and Shannan (Year 12)).



## Proposed new Dining Room

*By Mr Tungate, Principal*

At the end of October, the Nottingham City Council gave planning permission for the proposed extension to our dining facilities. We are now working with structural engineers and surveyors on finalising the plans so that we can go to tender for a contractor. Despite the council's delay in reaching a decision, we are still hopeful we can open the new facility in September 2020.



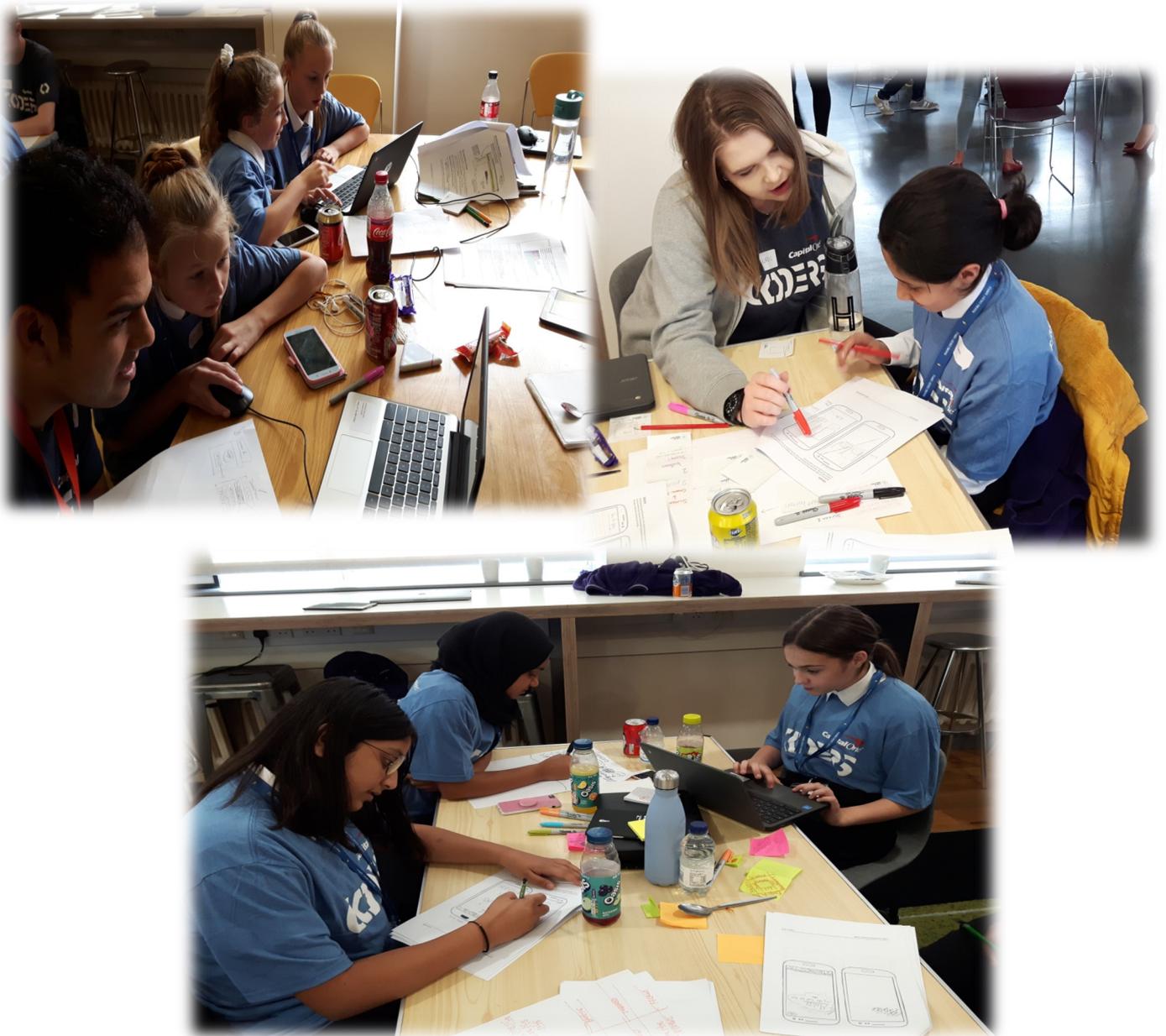
We value high standards, hard work and a ceaseless desire to improve

## Capital One Coders

*By Mr Gaskell, Head of Computing and Business*

Mr Gaskell and Ms Heron took 30 eager Year 7 pupils to the Capital One offices for their Coders day. Throughout the day they were taken through the design and creation of a real and functioning app using MIT's App Inventor. They all had great fun and produced some fantastic ideas and apps which they will be able to continue working on at home. After presenting their ideas to everyone (some of which involved some amazing dances), the judges went away to deliberate. Several groups won prizes of Amazon vouchers based on their app idea and presentation.

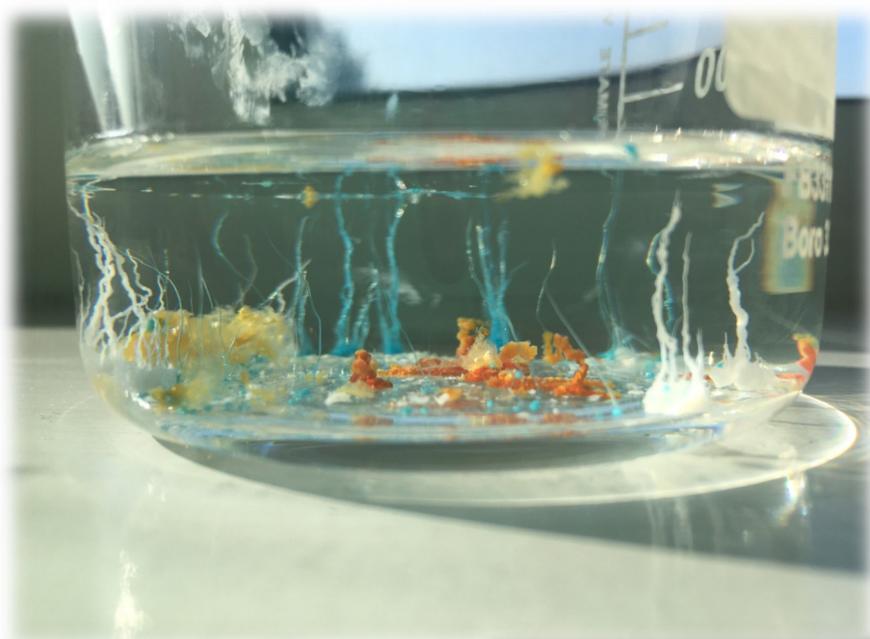
They all came away tired but well fed (there was food galore available throughout the day) and with a swag bag filled with numerous goodies. A great day was had by all.



## Chemistry Week 2019

*By Mrs Chewings, Teacher of Science*

21–25 October brought Chemistry Week to the Academy, with lots of activities for pupils to take part in! Science lessons followed a theme of ‘transition metal chemistry’, with hands-on experience of making paint and growing crystals, along with debates about recycling transition metals that we use to create our personal electronic devices. Some of the pupils joined in a lunchtime event with an element tombola and demonstrations of how transition metals can be found all around us. The glow stick demonstration was particularly popular! Thank you to everyone for taking part.

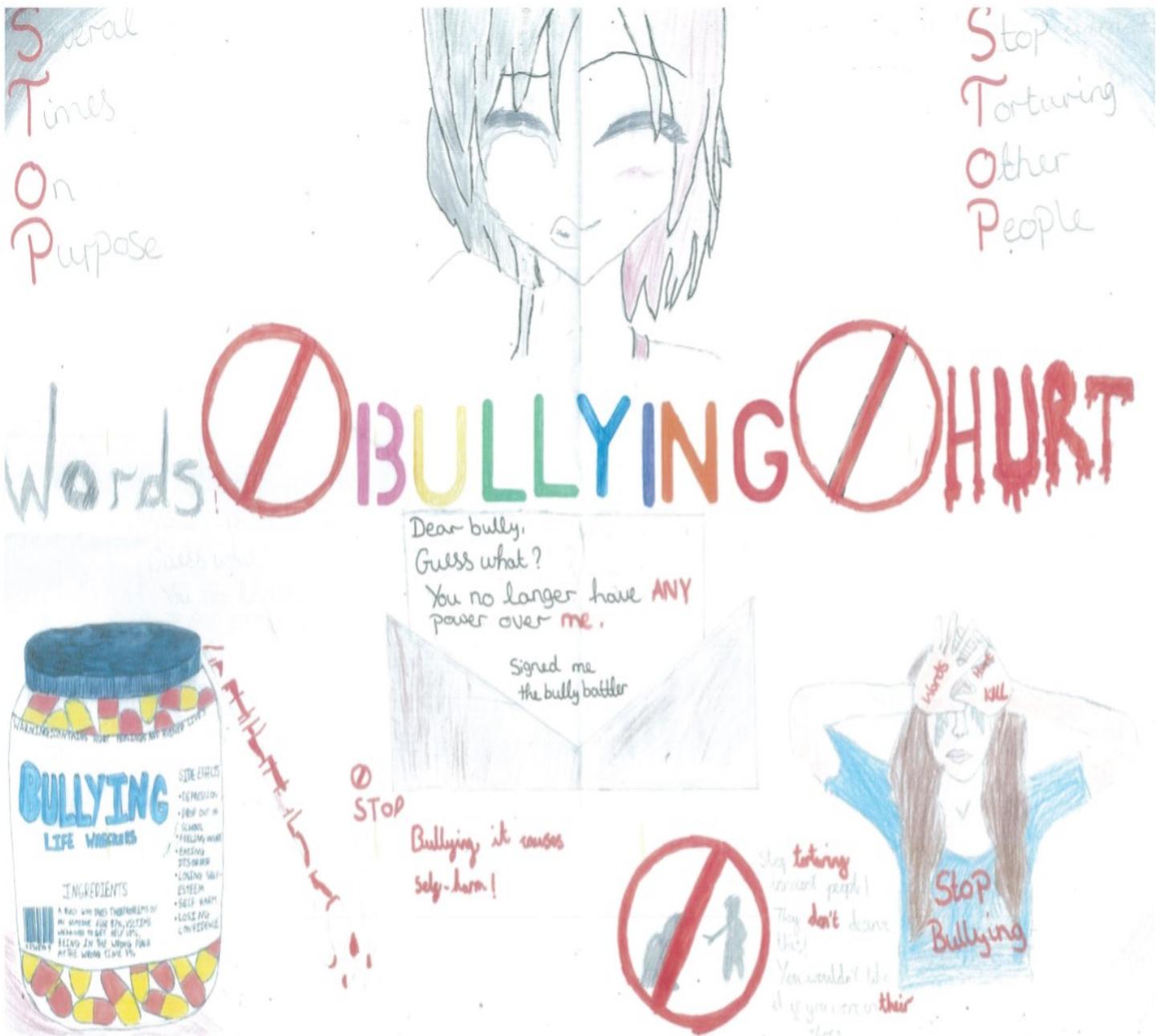


We strive to fulfill everyone's learning potential

## Anti-Bullying Week 2019

By Miss Moreno, Coordinator of PSHE

During anti-bullying week, pupils had the chance to discuss the topic of bullying at tutor time and reflect on the importance of speaking up in case anyone is suffering bullying. We ran a poster competition and this was our winning poster which reflects really well that girls at NGA do not tolerate bullying. Well done to Manahil in Year 9!



## Bollyrun

By Miss Henderson, Head of Physical Education

Launch date - 11 November 2019

Our pupils took part in the launch of Bollyrun, a new and exciting programme to motivate and encourage girls of all backgrounds and ethnicities to become more active. The programme consisted of Bollywood dancing/zumba and running sessions which on the day were delivered by a Bollywood dance crew and Olympic athlete, Marilyn Okoru. The pupils enjoyed two master classes, as well as an introduction to the programme. The girls got to ask questions and gain an insight into the life of a successful Olympic athlete.

Two of our pupils and their community members are now in a six month mentoring programme with Marilyn Okoru to encourage their community to become more active through an activity of their choice, as well as encouraging people from their community to come and get active at Bollywood dance/zumba sessions being held at our Academy.



## VIY Project

By Mrs Saunders, Employability and Careers Co-ordinator

Year 8 and 9 took part in the VIY project where they made benches, planters and a compost bin for our garden area, with the help of mentors. The materials were provided free of charge from Wickes. The pupils learnt a lot of new skills and how to use tools safely.

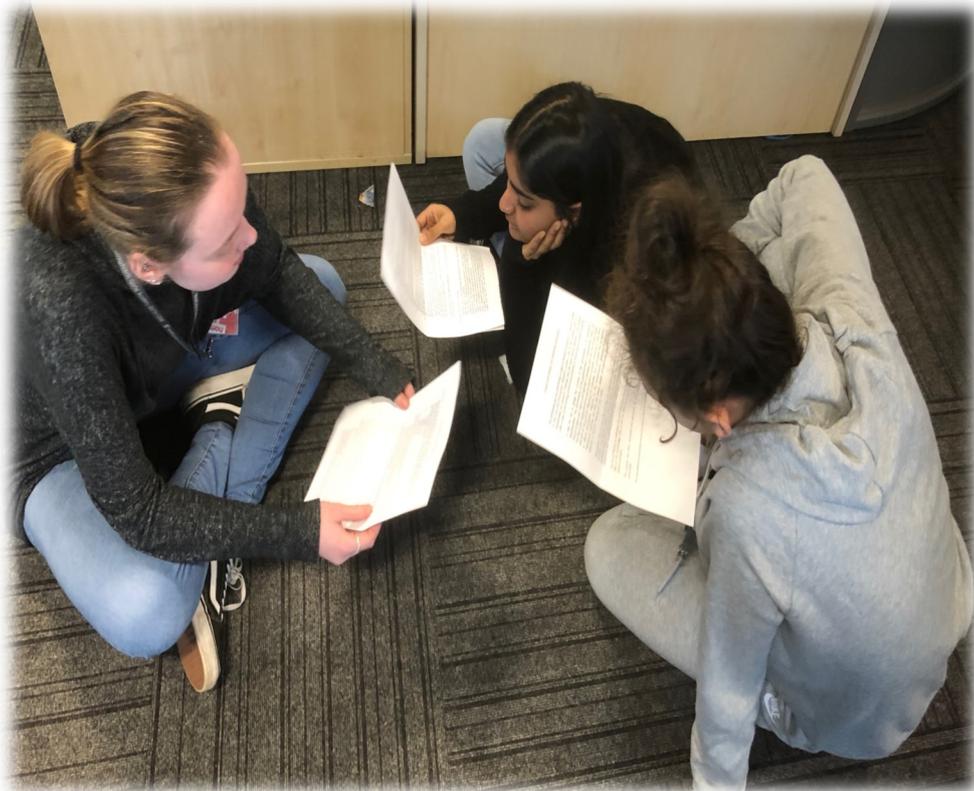


## Brecht Workshop

*By Humera, Year 13 student*

Being a performing arts student, I acquire a vast range of knowledge and I am given many opportunities to expand on that knowledge. For example, in a lesson we are studying Bertolt Brecht, a practitioner who developed a new type of theatre called 'Epic Theatre', which focused on isolating the audience from the performance using song, dance, prologues, minimal set and props, so that they are able to focus on the message behind it, which regularly consisted of his political views.

We were given an opportunity to attend a Brecht workshop at Nonsuch Studios, delivered by a professor from York University, and learnt more about the practitioner. During the workshop, I learnt that aside from detaching the audience from the performance, Brecht wanted the actors in his plays to have a justification for everything that they did. Every movement had to have a reason; for example, if a character was to move an object on a table, they had to have a reason why. I was able to understand this clearly as we were given an activity to help our understanding. We worked in groups of three; my group was given the scenario of an individual going into a posh restaurant for the first time. Two of us played an old couple who had saved up for their 50th anniversary and the third person was the waiter, excellently played by Miss Hawley. Every movement that we made in the scene had to have a justification. During the scene, there were moments where I would look around in awe of the restaurant and I would do this because it was the first time that my character would have been in a fancy restaurant like that, so it was a new experience for her. I really enjoyed this opportunity as it expanded my knowledge on Brecht and allowed me to experience his style of theatre for myself with the activity we did.



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## Dance4 Workshop and Show

*By Mariam and Lauren, Sixth Form students*



On 23 October we were given the opportunity to participate in a workshop at Dance4, Nottingham led by professional dancers from the Gary Clarke company. During the three hour workshop we took part in a contemporary warm-up and were taught repertoire from their new show, 'Wasteland', that we then developed in groups. The workshop allowed us to improve on our technique and develop our knowledge of different styles. It also allowed us to develop our team work and social skills as we worked with people we have never worked with before. When learning 'the rave' section, we gained knowledge on how the routine was choreographed and developed through the rehearsal process.

After learning choreography for the production, 'Wasteland' by Gary Clarke, in the Dance4 workshop on Wednesday, we went to go and see the show on Friday night at the Nottingham Playhouse. With our prior knowledge on the production, and the fact we had learnt part of the choreography, it was very enjoyable to watch how this fitted into the performance and how they portrayed the storyline. By taking Performing Arts at A Level, we get the opportunity to see a variety of performances, and this one was very different to anything we had ever seen before. It included minimal speech, and was mainly focused on dance and physical theatre body movements, telling the story of the downfall of Grimethorpe Colliery, ruining Britain's mining industry and the working class community that surrounded it. Reflecting on the performance afterwards, we really enjoyed the way the story was presented and the commitment of the whole cast, as we recognised how much hard work had gone into making the production. We would definitely see it again!

## Sing City 2019

*By Ms Downie-Tosini, Teacher i/c Music &  
Mrs Budding, Head of Year 9*



Our very own Shania in Year 9 has been crowned the 2019 Sing City champion.

Sing City is the Nottingham Music Service's annual singing competition, open to all pupils who attend a Nottingham school or college.

There were 31 entrants and after getting through to the final with 10 others, Shania sang her heart out to win! We are all very proud of her tremendous achievement and she helps to fly the exceptional musical flag of NGA.

## Congratulations Shania!





## Words for Work programme

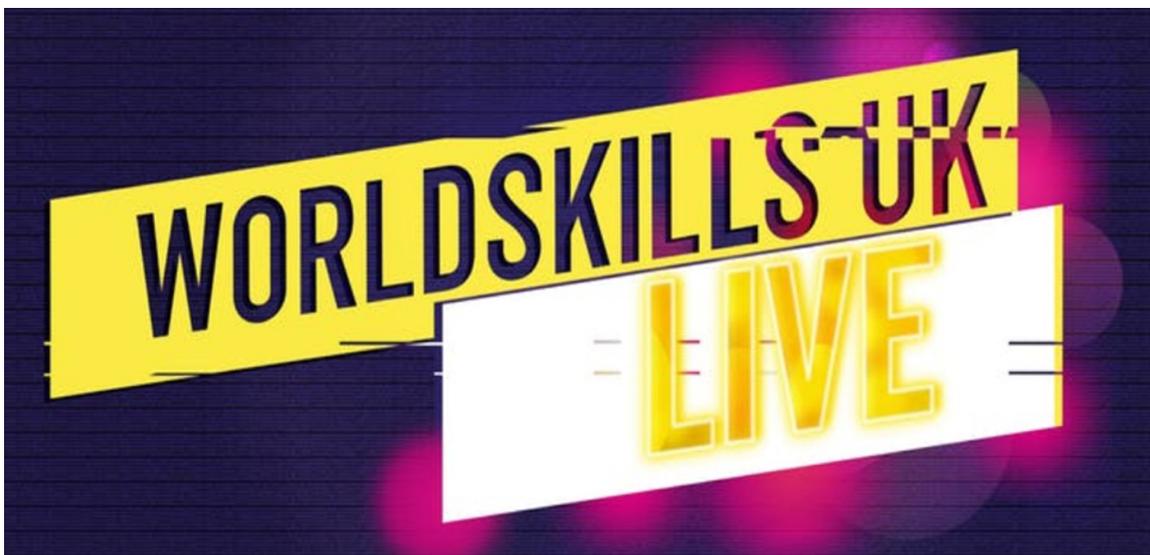
*By Mrs Cox, Literacy Coordinator*

Year 9 pupils in literacy intervention have been taking part in a programme organised by the National Literacy Trust and run by our literacy coordinator, Mrs Cox. The programme, called Words for Work, is made up of five workshops that help pupils to develop professional vocabulary and communication expected in formal settings, like interviews and the workplace. The groups have been working with volunteers from the local community to improve their ability to communicate effectively using professional vocabulary, oracy, intonation and body language. Our pupils in literacy intervention have behaved exceptionally and have shown evidence of real progress in their ability to communicate successfully in a formal setting. Some of the activities the groups have been taking part in are: role-playing interviews, writing professional interview questions, reading and researching the routes into their chosen careers, planning for a presentation and using professional practices to communicate effectively with their volunteers. All of these skills will then be demonstrated in a formal presentation delivered by the groups of pupils in the final workshop. A really big congratulations to the literacy students in Year 9 for all of their hard work and professionalism. We are incredibly proud of the progress they have made.

## World Skills Event Live

*By Miss Green, Second in Science*

WorldSkills UK LIVE is the UK's largest skills, apprenticeships and careers event. The event connects employers, apprentices, pupils and teachers to an exhilarating opportunity. Students at NGA have the opportunity to listen to spotlight talks from current apprentices, hear from inspirational figures and watch demonstrations.



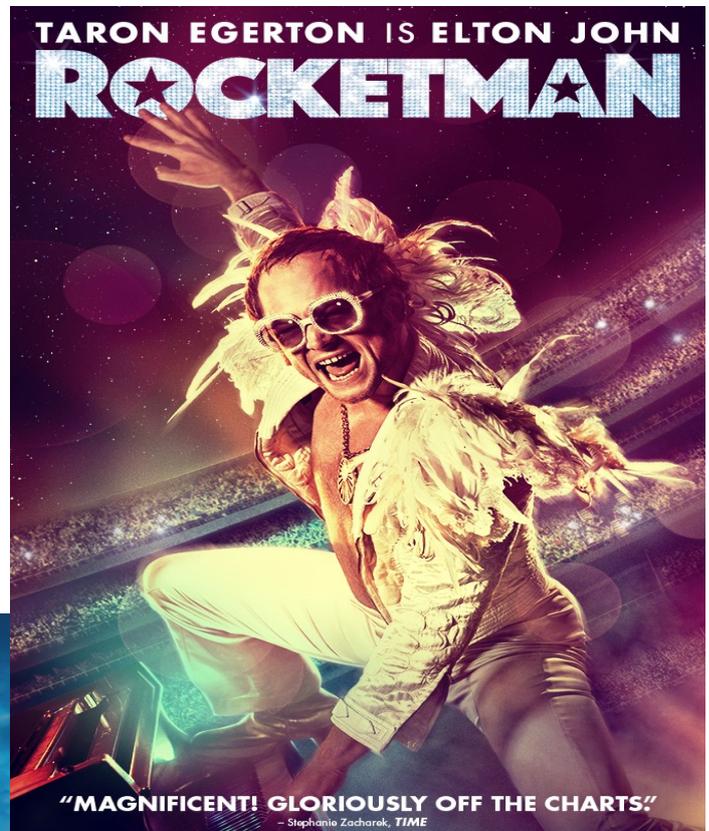
We value high standards, hard work and a ceaseless desire to improve

## IntoFilm Festival

By Mrs Asher, Teacher of Media & Film

This month students have taken part in the national IntoFilm Festival. GCSE Media Studies pupils and members of the school's film club, Film Elite, attended a screening of Spider-Man: Far From Home to look at the elements of film form that construct a film. A level Film Studies students enjoyed a screening of the film Rocketman, to analyse the depiction of famous people on screen. A good time was had by all!

INTO  
FILM



*We strive to fulfill  
everyone's learning  
potential*

## NGA Environment Group

*By Mrs Brierley, Regional Finance Manager*

This term has seen the introduction of a new range of environmentally friendly packaging, "Vegware", in the Academy kitchen. This compostable packaging, which is used for all our sandwiches, cobs, baked goods and fruit salad pots, replaces the plastic and non-recyclable items we previously used.

We are proud to say that our food waste is no longer sent to landfill. Along with the compostable packaging, all our food waste is now sent to the anaerobic digestion centre in Spondon, to be turned into green energy and environmentally friendly fertiliser.

Our green compost bins are found around the building and outdoor areas so that pupils and staff have every opportunity to dispose of their rubbish in the best way possible.

We strongly believe avoiding waste in the first place is the priority and we are continuing to work towards reducing all waste within the Academy.

### **Pupils! We need you!**

If you are interested in getting involved in our Eco Warriors group, please contact Mr Marshall, Miss Siddy or myself.



# NGA Christmas and Winter Reading

By Ms Squires, Librarian



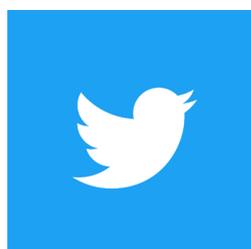
Coming soon in the NGA Library  
**Christmas** and **Winter** books

Looking for some wintry or festive page-turners?  
 Here is a sample of the library's selection of new  
 seasonal books.

Some are the perfect cosy read.  
 Others have storylines to get the blood pumping!

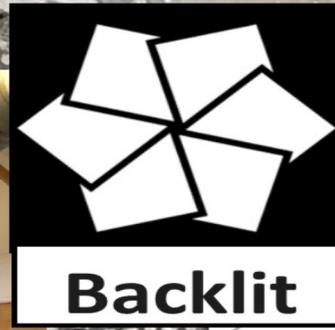
## Twitter

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



## Catterntide Day

By Mrs Pye, Teacher i/c Art



NOTTINGHAM  
TRENT UNIVERSITY

BONINGTON  
GALLERY



Nottingham Girls' Academy students were invited to exhibit work along side Charlie Birtles, who had been working in school with Yr8 Art students.

Their work was on display at the Backlit Gallery in Nottingham as part of the 'UK Young Artists Celebrating Catterntide Event' on 23 November.



Celebrating Catterntide was a one day festival that commemorated the long forgotten 'Catterntide Day', an annual celebration of St Catherine, the patron saint of lace and textile makers. **UK Young Artists, The Bonington Gallery** (at NTU) and **Backlit Gallery** (itself a former textile factory) hosted a range of family-friendly activities to educate and inspire people about this important part of **Nottingham's social history**.

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