

# Nottingham Girls' Academy



NOTTINGHAM  
GIRLS'  
ACADEMY

Newsletter  
October 2022

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## YEAR 9 STREET ART

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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 2022/2023**

Last day of half term: Friday 14 October

Half term holiday: Monday 17 October to Friday 28 October

### **Pupils return on Monday 31 October**

Monday 7 November: Sixth Form Open Evening 4:30pm-7:30pm

Year 11 and 13 Virtual Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud: Wednesday 7 December 4:30pm-7pm

Last day of Autumn term: Tuesday 20 December

Staff INSET Day: no pupils in school: Wednesday 21 December

### **Spring Term 2022/2023**

**Pupils return on Thursday 5 January 2023**

## Free School Meal Vouchers for October Half Term

*By The Admin Team*

The Nottingham City Council is providing funding for free school meal vouchers during the October half term. Parents/carers of each eligible pupil will receive a £30 supermarket voucher for this period which will be sent electronically by Edenred.



## 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





## Queen Elizabeth II

By Mrs Allsopp, Librarian

During the Library lessons in March and April, the year 7 pupils and a handful of year 8 pupils, drew beautiful pictures and wrote amazing letters to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, in celebration of her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday (21 April 2022) and her Platinum Jubilee (June 2022). I sent all the letters and drawings to Her Majesty, at Buckingham Palace, in London.

During the summer, we received a reply. It read:

*To the pupils at Nottingham Girls' Academy*

*The Queen wishes me to write and thank you for the splendid letters and pictures that you sent to her majesty on the occasion of her Platinum Jubilee.*

*The Queen was glad to hear from you and, although unable to reply to you personally, Her Majesty greatly appreciated the nice things you said.*

*I am to thank you again for your messages of good wishes to The Queen on this, her Platinum Jubilee year.*

*Signed, The Honourable Mary Morrison,*

*(Her Majesty's companion and lady-in-waiting since 1960)*

As you know, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, sadly passed away on Thursday 8 September. When the pupils returned to school on the 9 September, I told them about the letter. I read it to them all, and the pupils were extremely excited, and in equal measure, saddened and touched by Her Majesty's letter and the card that was enclosed with the letter.

After the 10 days of national mourning, I framed the letter and card and hung them in the library for the pupils to see and read for themselves. The pupils have been coming into the library to read the letter and are truly thrilled by it.

**We Read - We Learn - We Grow**



## Year 11 PSHE Day

By Mrs Gangneux, PSHE Coordinator

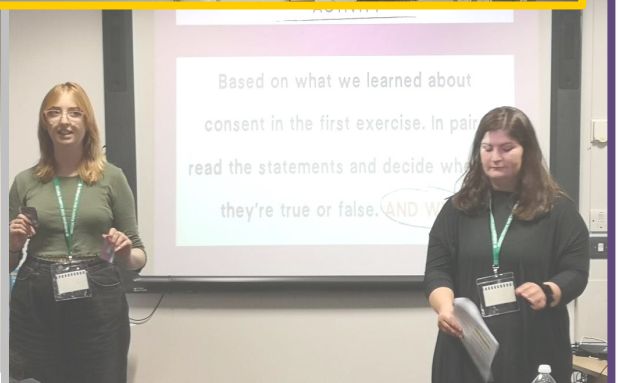
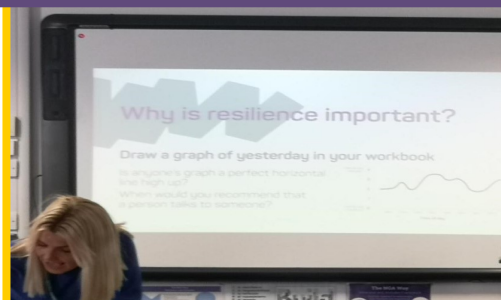
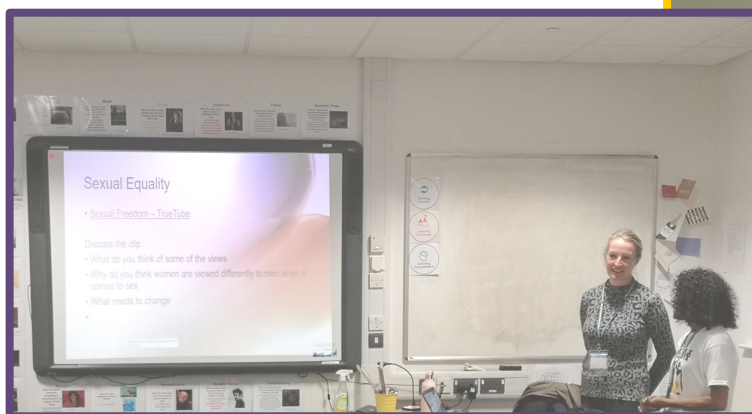
It was our pleasure to host FIVE external organisations into school on Thursday 6 October to deliver part of our PSHE program. Well-known Nottingham based charity, Equation, were back delivering Consent in Context; we had Nottingham University Hospitals Outreach facilitators delivering on sexual health, the wonderful Vanessa at Mariposa RSE back to talk about delaying intimacy, and the fabulous Gracie Barra Jiu Jitsu ladies teaching self-defence. We also started a brand-new programme with BLOOM on Resilience building, and who doesn't need a bit of resilience nowadays?!

The day was a huge success with our students really enjoying the sessions, some of the comments from our evaluation included *'It was great to be able to practice real-life techniques for self-defence'*, others wrote *'I really enjoyed the discussions around contraception; it was great to talk and know you wouldn't be judged'*.

Having a platform to ask questions in an open and honest forum is not just a 'nice' thing to do; it is essential in ensuring the pupils are informed about issues that directly affect them, or will do in the future. It can often be a matter of safety and protection. Developing well-rounded human beings is our priority and preparing them for the modern world is our mission!

All the facilitators commented on how much they enjoy coming to deliver workshops here at NGA, the quality of the discussions they have and the maturity of the students. WELL DONE YEAR 11, you have done us proud once again.

Please see below for some photos of the event.





## Year 7 Puberty and FGM Awareness Workshops

*By Mrs Gangneux, PSHE Coordinator*

On Monday 10 October we delivered an assembly plus workshops on 'positive puberty' and FGM to students in year 7. Due to the highly sensitive nature of FGM and the fact that it is sadly practiced in Nottinghamshire, we have an obligation to teach the pupils about this practice, what it is, and how to get help if they suspect it has happened to someone they know or could happen to them.

All too often, some young people are learning about the biology of their body for the first time through the lens of abuse and mistreatment. We decided this year that we would revisit year 6 RSE, making sure our pupils are familiar with the correct names for their intimate body parts, their purpose and function, before we talk to them about the abusive and illegal practice of FGM. Growing up should be a beautiful thing, not an opportunity for adults to cause harm.

The workshops gave the pupils the opportunity to do an anonymous Q&A at the end of the session, asking anything they wanted to know about their biology and puberty. The workshops were really successful, showing we have some truly curious young minds who are keen to understand their developing anatomy.

Ms Megran, being a biology teacher, is passionate about making sure our young people are informed not only with the correct terminology for their bodies, but also the range and variation in the female form. The year 7s absolutely loved it, and the sessions provided plenty of giggling opportunities as well as some serious moments!

## Biology Week 2022

By Miss Mahmood, Acting STEM Coordinator

# Biology Week 2022

Biology week was amazing! We had competitions, lunch time activities and physiology was the theme for KS3 Science lessons.



Lunch time activities included food for the future, microscopes, dissections, taste the difference and BioHealth. Students from the Sixth form helped out with the lunch time activities.

The BioBake competition just proves how talented the students are in NGA. We raised £87.96 which will go towards STEM activities!



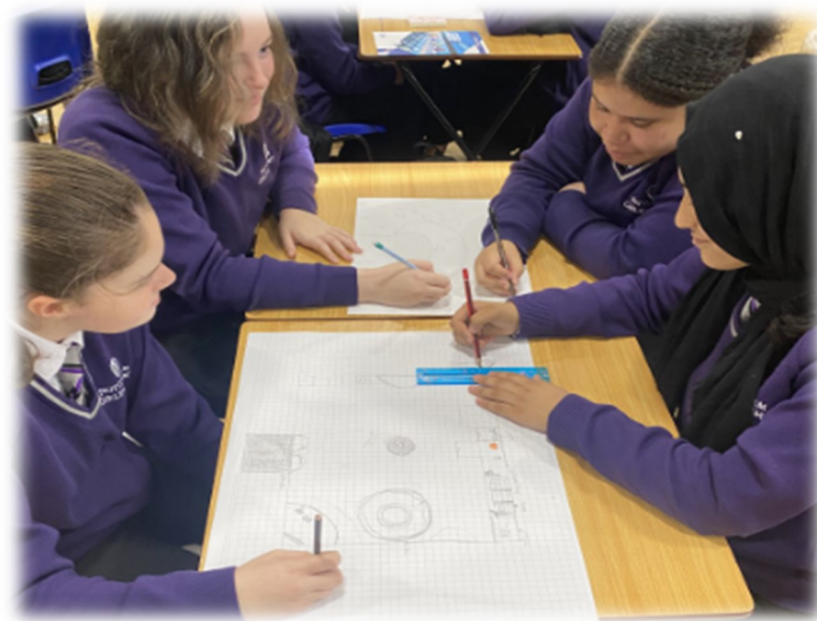




## HS2 Engineering Workshop

*By Miss Mahmood, Acting STEM Coordinator*

Pupils from years 7 to 9 took part in an engineering workshop where they looked at STEM topics and used STEM skills to design stations, build tunnels and reflect on their STEM skills to see how they can be used in STEM careers. The project was to first design a station that will welcome all visitors and then to build a tunnel that can withstand a large mass.



The concept came from a new HS2 railway station coming in action by 2045. It will be able to transport people from Birmingham to London within 54 minutes.

The group pictured left worked on their train station. It included having robot services, a petting zoo, wild-life centre, and plants to take in the carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

One group designed their station to welcome people from all different backgrounds. They had a centre for deaf people who can use headphones to help know where to find their platform. They had a centre for blind people to get help to their destination. They also had a soft play area for kids and hover boards.

Some pupils presented their ideas in front of the class of 56 pupils. They showed how to make their station inclusive. Whereas, one group also designed their station to be sustainable by adding renewable energy resources such as solar panels.



Overall, it was an amazing day filled with team building exercises, creativity and project work. Great work everyone!

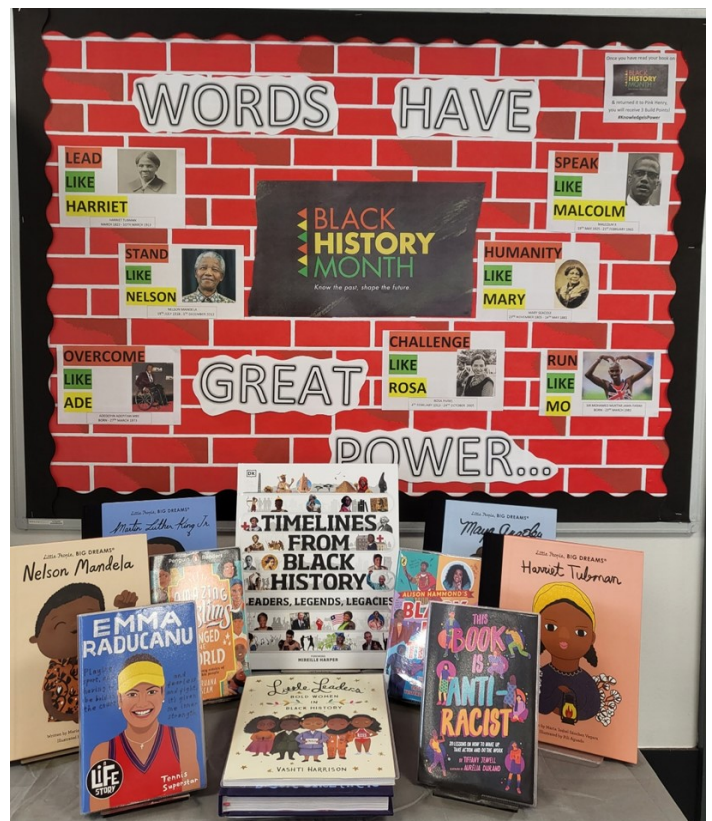
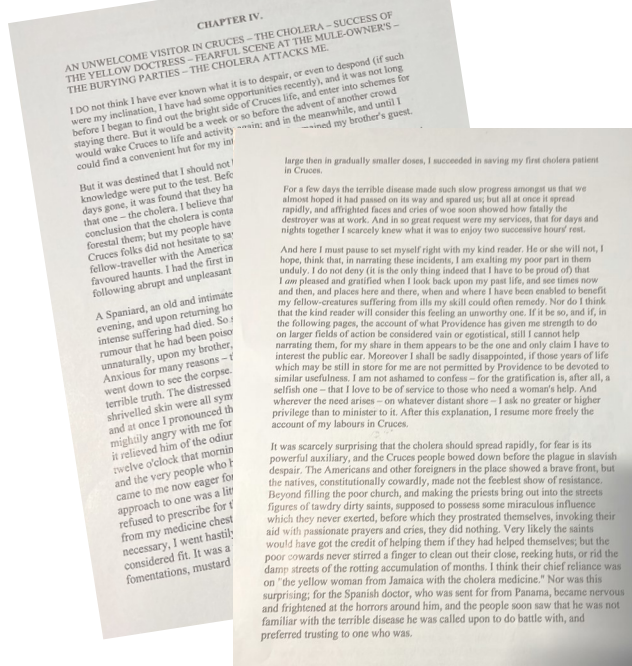


## Black History Month - Curriculum

By Mrs A Evans, Associate Assistant Principal, Equality & Diversity Lead

As a school community we have been doing lots to celebrate Black History Month! As always, the pupils have been positively engaged in all the events to celebrate this occasion!

We have celebrated diversity within the curriculum, with subject leaders embedding black history content into their lessons. In Science and Maths we have focused on influential thinkers with black heritage.



Lunchtimes have provided pupils with an opportunity to explore African & Caribbean Languages at our Multilingual club.

Amharic, Patois, Swahili, Twi... How much do you know about the languages of Africa & the Caribbean?

During English lessons pupils have looked at the use of poetry by black musical artists and activists, and explored the view point of Mary Seacole as a resilient BAME women. Pupils were encouraged to read from a range of literature by black authors.

Geography lessons have studied the experience of black people in rural areas, and in P.E pupils used physical activity and competition to engage in learning about black athletes from the past and present.







## Black History Month - Creativity

*By Mrs A Evans, Associate Assistant Principal, Equality & Diversity Lead*

Our fantastic Music department collaborated with local drumming company Drumba and our pupils to create some wonderful African themed music which they performed beautifully at break time.



Miss Williams and Mrs Downie-Tosini worked tirelessly all week with some very talented pupils, from all year groups to produce a Caribbean carnival celebration which they performed for everyone in the yard at lunch time!



The Art department already look at the work of Contemporary Artists from around the world, including Yinka Shonibare and Zeenixx as part of the curriculum. For Black History Month they organised some lunchtime sessions for those who wanted to come and learn more about the meanings of Ghanaian Adinkra printmaking and the patter-work of British-Liberian Lina Iris Viktor. Pupils were invited to join in and create their own masterpieces.

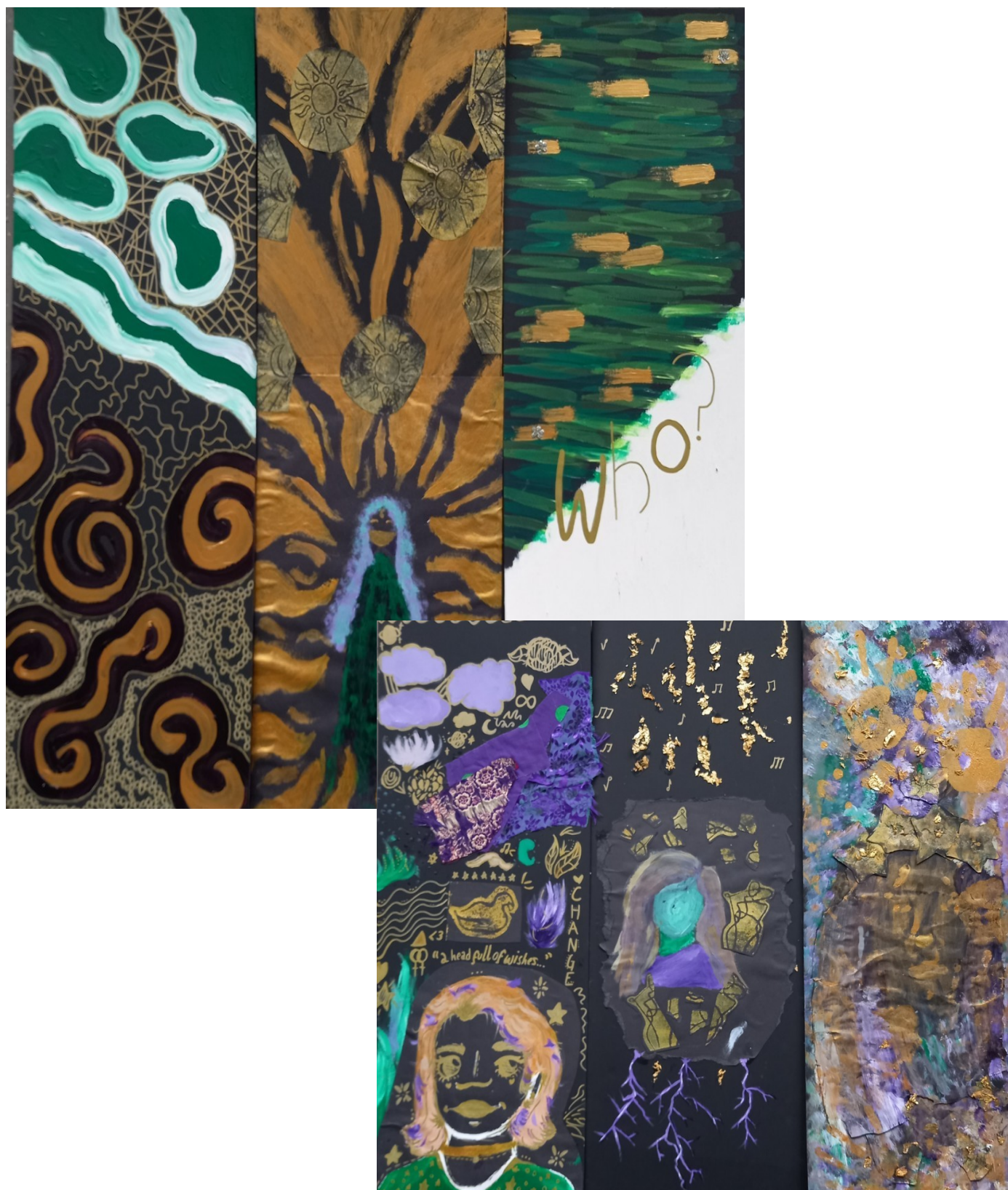


Pupils had the opportunity to participate in a 'Design and make your own bracelet' in celebration of Black History Month.



## Creating Connections: Project linked with Brunts Academy

By Mrs Pye, Teacher i/c Art





## Creating Connections: Project linked with Brunts Academy

By Mrs Pye, Teacher i/c Art







## Black History Month - Culture

By Mrs A Evans, Associate Assistant Principal, Equality & Diversity Lead

# Cookery Masterclass

Mrs Evans and Ms Heron organised a Black History Month Cookery Masterclass, demonstrating how to cook meals from Caribbean culture. Pupils worked together to create the dishes; Saltfish and Ackee and Jerk Chicken (Halal) with rice and peas.



Rylee enjoying the Saltfish and Ackee.



Lunchtimes were the perfect opportunity to celebrate black culture and staff and pupils have enjoyed the addition of Jerk Chicken, Caribbean Chicken Stew and African Beef Stew to our usual lunchtime provision.







## Black History Month - Careers

*By Mrs A Evans, Associate Assistant Principal, Equality & Diversity Lead*

We have been lucky enough to have two inspirational speakers visit us at Nottingham Girls' Academy this month. We hosted the Tired Movement who ran a 90 min workshop at Nottingham Girls' Academy. The session offered the opportunity to have open, honest conversations about racial equality within the dance industry and discuss how as educators of the next generation we can improve our understanding of what it means to be an all inclusive school that respects ethnic diversity within dance settings whilst enabling young people to vocalise their experiences and understanding of racial equality within the dance industry.

Local Police officer, Nigel Best delivered assemblies to all year groups to discuss his background and experiences as a black man working in, and with the police service. Nigel himself was part of the Windrush generation, and moved to the UK from Barbados in 1966. Since then, he has had a variety of jobs, from DJ-ing for Nottingham Forest, to teaching, and as part of the Nottinghamshire Police Service.



Nigel talked about his upbringing, his career and his motivations for his current role, alongside discussing why he is so passionate about recruiting more people of colour and women into the Police Service. Students were particularly excited by Nigel's explanation of the different roles in the police- specifically training and handling police dogs- something that he admits is a scarier part of his role!

Nigel also provided details of a film that is due to premier during the holidays. The film has an important message as it aims to highlight the statistically disproportionate number of black and asian young people who can't swim. Following on from watching the film, our pupils will have access to free swimming lessons at Harvey Haddon, as part of a collaboration project with Nottingham City Council.

Black History Month at Nottingham Girls' Academy has been truly inspirational, staff and pupils have immersed themselves in learning about and celebrating black culture. Diversity is incredibly important to us as a school and we will continue to find ways to promote this within our curriculum. Our mission is to become a flagship school for diversity and inclusion. We are particularly looking forward to cultural day and to our Eid celebrations!

## Ada Lovelace Trip

By Miss Mahmood, Acting STEM Coordinator

The Ada Lovelace Trip allowed pupils to speak to many scientists from different backgrounds. They had spoken to a palaeontologists, chemists and pharmacists. Pupils had a chance to talk about careers, complete activities and design medicine boxes.

Dr Susie Lydon spoke to the pupils on her career pathway. She mentioned how she was unsure of what she wanted to do at the beginning but fell in love with palaeontology. She used her knowledge of plant fossils to determine how the climate has changed over millions of years.



The chemists from the Charnwood Molecular company does research on drug discovery for other pharmaceutical companies. They discussed how they purify drugs and pupils had a chance to look at chromatography. Pictured left is Blessing who is holding her chromatography paper.

Pictured right is Aqila, who is showing another experiment where the pupils looked at the solubility of medicines in the stomach.



The pupils then looked at reversible reactions. They looked at chemicals which can change colour and then go back to the original colour. Pictured right is Karampreet who is holding her redox reaction.



Overall, the pupils had an amazing time exploring different careers and carrying out experiments. I was very impressed with their confidence and creativity.



## Year 7 & 8 Football Success

*By Miss Henderson, Head of PE*

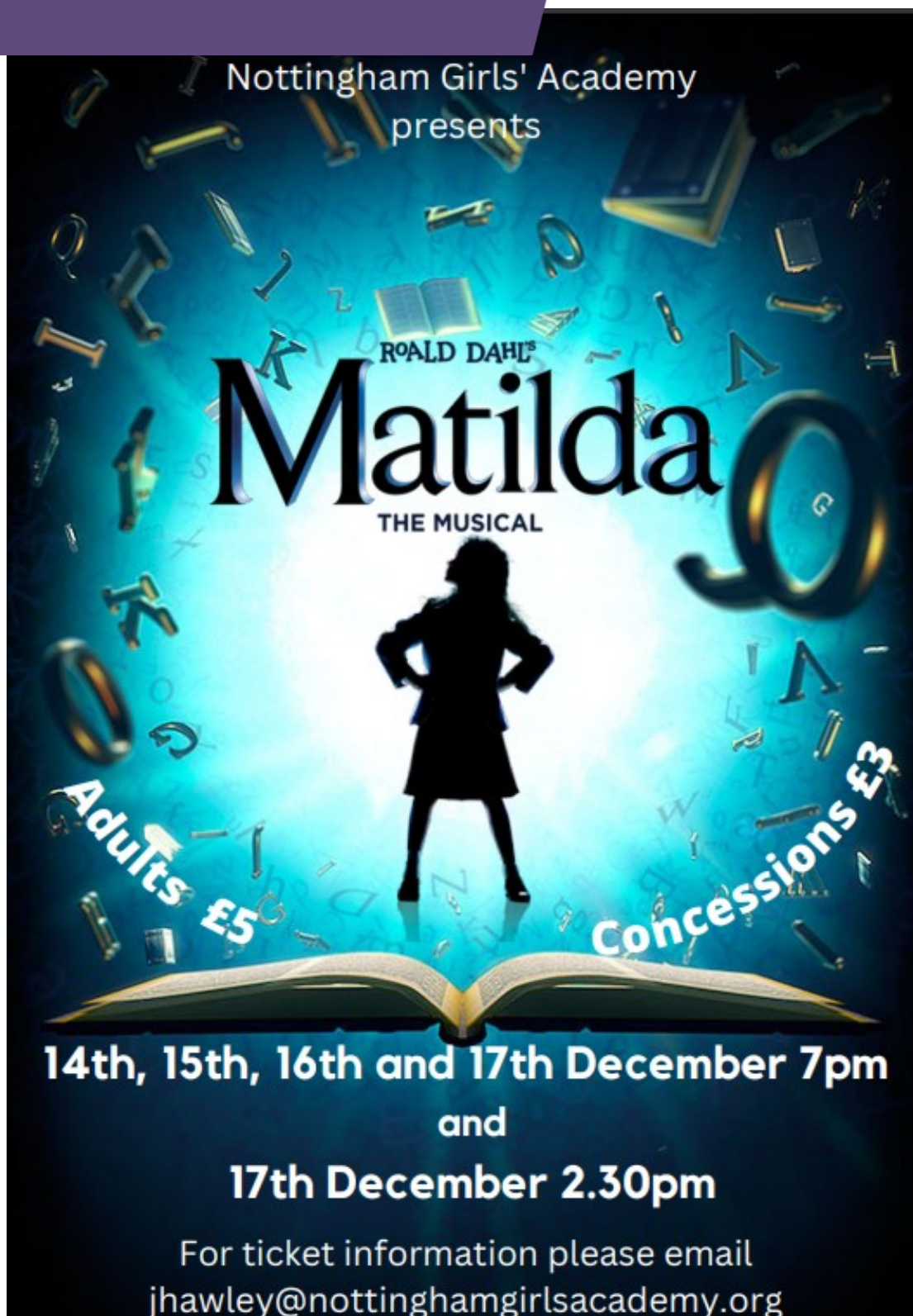
On Monday 10 October some of our year 7 and 8 pupils went to Kingswood Secondary for the inter academy football competition. Not only did our girls showcase their fantastic behaviour and standards above and beyond others in the trust, but they SMASHED it!

Starting off a bit slower we played Brunts Academy 0-0, Kingswood Academy 1-1 and Skegness Academy drawing 1-1. Then the girls found their feet and off we went... we beat Nottingham Academy 4-1, Wells Academy 3-0, Stanground Academy 4-0, Western Favell Academy 1-0 and City of Peterborough Academy 2-0!

The end results came in and we were joint first place with Kingswood. The Head of PE at Kingswood came and asked me what we had been feeding them! We then had to drop down to 2<sup>nd</sup> place as the results/points were the same so it was based on goals scored in the tournament! Our pupils took the news well and clapped for all teams as we would no less expect.

What a performance from our pupils! So proud of their hard work and efforts to say it was their first ever tournament!



A poster for the musical 'Matilda' by Roald Dahl. The background is a vibrant blue with a glowing effect. In the center, a silhouette of a young girl with her hands on her hips stands on top of an open book. The book is surrounded by various school-related items like pencils, erasers, and paper clips. The title 'Matilda' is written in a large, elegant serif font, with 'ROALD DAHL'S' in a smaller font above it and 'THE MUSICAL' below it. The text 'Nottingham Girls' Academy presents' is at the top. At the bottom, the show dates and times are listed, along with ticket prices for adults and concessions.

Nottingham Girls' Academy  
presents

ROALD DAHL'S  
**Matilda**  
THE MUSICAL

Adults £5  
Concessions £3

**14th, 15th, 16th and 17th December 7pm  
and  
17th December 2.30pm**

For ticket information please email  
[jhawley@nottinghamgirlsacademy.org](mailto:jhawley@nottinghamgirlsacademy.org)

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