NOTTINGHAM GIRLS' ACADEMY

SCHOOL BEACON

9th October 2026

STAR OF THE LESSON 2 WEEK CHALLENGE

Every teacher has been able to award one Star of the Lesson token per lesson to students who demonstrate excellent effort, engagement, progress, kindness, resilience, or a particularly positive attitude to learning.



One week has already passed, meaning there is now just **one week remaining** for students to earn a token before half term. If you haven't received one yet, there is still plenty of time to impress your teachers and secure your place in the Reward Shop!

Students who receive a token should **keep it safe**. After half term, during the week beginning 2nd November, they will be invited to exchange their token for a reward from our new Reward Shop.

The Reward Shop will offer a range of prizes and incentives, giving students something extra to work towards as we approach the end of the half term. **Year groups will be allocated times to visit and trade in their tokens.**

In addition, teachers are recording these awards on Arbor so that parents and carers can celebrate their child's achievement too.

We look forward to recognising and rewarding the many positive contributions our students make every day and encourage all pupils to continue working hard for the chance to earn a Star of the Lesson token!

SIXTH FORM UPDATE

It was great to see so many of our Year 11 pupils at our Sixth Form open evening on Monday; they asked some great questions and had some really useful discussions with our current Sixth Form students. We look forward to receiving their applications after their PPEs!

If you missed our open evening, but would like to know more about our offering, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Sixth Form team if you have any questions or queries.

LOST PROPERTY

A selection of lost property will be displayed on the tables opposite the Medical Room throughout the week.
Students are encouraged to check for any missing items and collect anything that belongs to them before the end of the day on Friday.
Any items that remain unclaimed after Friday will be donated to charity or disposed of.
Please take a few minutes to have a look, especially if you've misplaced any uniform, PE kit, water bottles, lunch boxes, or other personal belongings.

CREATIVITY AT NGA

Similar to last week, have a look at what our students have been up to in the art room since being back!









FREE SWIMMING FOR UNDER 16S

Free Swimming for Under 16s This October Half-Term

We are delighted to share that Nottingham City Council is offering free swimming sessions for children and young people aged under 16 during the October half-term holidays.



This fantastic initiative aims to help children stay active, build confidence in the water, and enjoy the many health and wellbeing benefits of swimming.

Booking opens on Sunday 11 October 2026, with free sessions available from Sunday 18 October 2026.

Families can book sessions:

- Online via the Active Nottingham website
- Through the Active Nottingham app
- In person at Active Nottingham leisure centres

Please see the attached flyer for further details, or scan the QR code, including participating leisure centres and how to book. We encourage all eligible families to take advantage of this excellent opportunity during the half-term break.

NATIONWIDE SCHOOL TOUR

We are delighted to announce that Nottingham Girls' Academy has been selected as one of only a small number of schools to host a performance as part of the **National Theatre's Bacchae Schools Tour**, thanks to our involvement in the National Theatre Connections programme.

On **6th November**, students in **Year 11 and above** will have the exciting opportunity to watch a live professional performance of Bacchae, one of the most influential works of Greek theatre, performed here at the academy. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to experience high-quality theatre and gain a deeper understanding of classical drama, literature, and performance.

For more information about the production, please visit the National Theatre website: https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/whats-on/bacchae-schools-tour/

NEW VIEWS PROGRAM

We are excited to be taking part in **New Views**, the National Theatre's nationwide playwriting programme for young people.

As part of the project, students will work alongside professional playwrights and theatre practitioners to develop their creative writing skills and create their own original play scripts. This unique opportunity allows students to explore storytelling, character development, and theatrical writing while receiving guidance from industry professionals.

The project forms part of the **New Views Playwriting Festival**, which celebrates young writers and their work, with opportunities for students to engage with the wider theatre community and showcase their creativity.

We are looking forward to seeing the imaginative and inspiring scripts our students create throughout the programme.

For more information about New Views, please visit:
https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/learn-explore/new-views/

UPDATE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Crossing Patrol

As I have mentioned previously, myself and other senior colleagues act as a crossing patrol before and after school. You will see us wearing NGA branded high-viz vests.

We do this not only because we do not believe the road is safe enough, but also because too many of our pupils seem to lack basic road safety awareness.

We will tackle that issue in assemblies, but I would ask that you also help us by making sure your children follow these basic simple principles:

- Stop, look, listen - this means put your phone away and take your headphones off.
- Never cross between parked cars
- Only cross with the assistance of the crossing patrol.

I would also appreciate it if parents and carers followed these guidelines:

- Never stop on the yellow zig-zag lines to drop off or pick up your child. It is an offence to do so.
- Please only stop on the road when the crossing patrol has asked you to.
- When dropping off or collecting your child on foot, please only cross with the assistance of the crossing patrol.

Fairness

A small number of pupils (and parents/carers) have taken to arguing about punishments received for breaking our school rules. There are three frequent arguments I hear:

- I didn't know the rule.
- Other people were breaking the rule, why am I getting the punishment?
- I broke the rule yesterday and nobody said anything so why is it an issue now?

Although we explain the rules to our pupils, the expectation is that parents and carers have also been through our behaviour policy with their children. Our rules are published in our behaviour policy: www.nottinghamgirlsacademy.org/behaviour. Ignorance of the rules will not be an adequate excuse for breaking them and will usually still result in a sanction being applied.

We also try our best to make sure our rules are enforced consistently, evenly, and fairly. However, with over 950 pupils on roll, it is common sense that some rule breaking may not get spotted or dealt with as we would like.

I therefore want to be clear. Sanctions will be applied in accordance with our behaviour policy whenever a pupil is found to have broken the rules. We take context into account and we may make adjustments for a pupil's special educational needs.

The example I give to pupils in school is that the speed limit on the motorway is 70mph. If I exceed that speed I may or may not get caught. If I do get caught, it will not be an excuse to argue that other people are doing it and so it is not fair to punish me.

Nor will I be able to argue that I did it yesterday and got away with it so I should be let off today as well.

Very simply, if I break the rule, and I get caught, it is fair that I get an appropriate punishment.

I would be grateful if you would explain this principle to your children and continue to support us in trying to ensure the academy environment remains a safe, kind, nurturing and inclusive environment.