

20<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy term, it is fair to say that we are all ready for a very well-deserved break. In the past few weeks, we have been treated to some wonderful concerts, celebration assemblies and, of course, our annual Awards Evening yesterday. It has been a real joy to share our students' talents and achievements. I also want to pay praise to the current Year 11 students who have been excellent in their approach to their PPEs. We know that they have been working hard towards them and this will help them enormously with their final revision. As in previous years, we will hold our 'mock' Year 11 results day upon our return to school in January and students will also have the opportunity to speak to staff once they have received their results. I wish them all the very best of luck with this.

### Foodbank Appeal

Thank you for all your incredible support with, and contributions to, our annual Foodbank appeal which took place last week. It was a tremendous success, and we were overwhelmed by the generous donations of food and toiletries which equated to thousands and thousands of pounds of donated goods. I am pleased to confirm that all the donations were safely transported to the local Food Bank by Mr Parker and very gratefully received. This charity event represents student leadership at its absolute best and makes us immensely proud of the civic responsibility our students show. As has become the custom at NSG, this event was organised and managed from start to finish by our wonderful Sixth Form student leadership team; from the organisation of the collection boxes to the communication with students, parents and carers, and to ensuring that the donations received made their way safely to the local Food Bank. It has been great to see the most senior students at our school acting as role models and inspiring and motivating students in the younger years to follow in their benevolent footsteps.

I would like to offer a sincere thanks to the Sixth Form Student Leadership Team who supported the organisation and promotion of the event so diligently and to the wider Sixth Form community for helping to gather the mountains of donations we received.

### Christmas Concert

Last week, we were delighted to be joined by so many families and supporters of NSG in a full and vibrant auditorium at the Spinney Theatre to celebrate the spirit of Christmas in style at our Christmas Concert. It is always wonderful to see students across every year group showcasing their incredible talents: they were superb! There was something special and excellent about every performance, though I will highlight that Tie Rack and the Big Band excelled themselves in exceptional performances this year and, as ever, the Year 7 choir melted my heart with their rendition of 'Unity'. The final act of the evening gave us a short but energising glimpse into the quality of the performances that we can expect in our forthcoming musical, The Wizard of Oz. We hope that you will be able to join us for what is set to be one of our best musicals yet!

Thank you to all the staff that supported the concert and an enormous thank you to all the students that performed – they fill us with pride!



## NSG Awards Evening

Although we are in many ways a very vibrant and modern school, the NSG Awards Evening is steeped in tradition. and has taken place annually at our school for several decades. Our Awards Evening, which took place yesterday, provides an opportunity for us to collectively celebrate the achievements of our incredible students. Regardless of their differing achievements and interests, all the students that received awards have something very special in common: they are exceptionally committed, they are tenacious, and they are fearless in their pursuit of excellence. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to each one of our prize winners – they are astonishingly brilliant, and it was a true privilege to share the evening with them, and their family and friends.

Thank you also to Lorraine Lewis, from The Lewis Foundation, for supporting and speaking at the event. The Lewis Foundation is an incredible local charity that supports adult cancer patients by providing support packs to them in hospital every week. The charity relies on donations and volunteers to support their work and we are very proud to be working with the team at the charity and immensely proud of our student volunteers who also support the charity's immensely important work.

## Sporting Success

All round, our athletes and sports teams have continued to build on their successes this term and it is always a pleasure to see them achieve so well, and to see the support this generates from their peers too. Given the significant increase in engagement and participation in sporting activities at NSG, in the future we will be holding a separate Sports Awards event to recognise our students' achievements more formally with their families. More information will be shared about this upon our return in January.

## Basketball

Many of you will recall that this time last year we were crowned regional winners for 'Education Institution of the Year' by Basketball England. As a Basketball Academy, we continue to be immensely proud of our students' impressive achievements in this sport and our teams are certainly showing us why they continue to be considered one of the strongest teams regionally. A few weeks ago, the Under 14 Basketball team made the long journey to Durham Johnston School for the first round of the National Schools Competition. In a terrific team performance, NSG ran out comfortable winners, winning 71-31, and it was particularly impressive to see five of our players scoring in double figures. Congratulations to our top scorer Michelle M, who scored 16 points. In the return game, played at NSG last week, the team stormed into a 41-0 lead after just 10 minutes. Coach Goodrich provided wise and competitive guidance on how the team should play, and the final score was 91-14. Once again, Michelle M was the top scorer with 23 points, with Captain Queendy Y very closely behind scoring 18 points.

Our Year 8 Basketball team have also secured exceptional results in the recent Junior NBA tournament. The girls played an impressive two games in London, beating Greig City Academy 58-24 and the hosts, St.Thomas More, 41-20. There was some highly impressive team play, which was remarked upon and admired by the many spectators at the school. In the second tournament, NSG again dominated in both games beating Latymer School 41-15 and North London Collegiate 51-4. The Year 8 team were in excellent form across the four games, with standout performances from Amelia W-M, Freya T-A, Brooke F and Emilie M.



## English Schools (ESAA) Cross Country Cup Final

Our cross-country teams have made us immensely proud with their successes in recent weeks. The Junior team finished 8th overall in the Cross Country Cup, with Bella L finishing in 1st place and Amelie H finishing 6th. While the Inters finished in 1st, 2nd, 7th and 15th place, giving them an outstanding score of 25 points which saw them win 1st Team in the Inter Counties Competition. Jess L finished 1st, Claudia T finished 2nd, Emily D finished 7th and Emma M finished 15th. This took them to the Regional Finals in Stowe, where they finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place in bitterly cold and damp conditions.

## Town Cross Country Championships

In an impressive and dominant performance at the Cross Country Minor Girls Championships, Bella L led from the start and secured an impressive 1<sup>st</sup> place. Overall, the team finished 5<sup>th</sup> place and the experience provided some invaluable learning. Well done to Evie J and to Amelie H also, who finished 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> place.

We were pleased to have 13 runners in the Junior Girls Competition, who delivered sensational individual and team performances. There were certainly some delighted faces from very proud staff when the results were shared by the P.E Department in the morning briefing! The team results were incredible and tell the story of fantastic performances in a very strong field: NSG A team came in a strong 1<sup>st</sup> place, NSG B team secured 2<sup>nd</sup> place and NSG C and D teams came in 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. There were some superb individual performances too, that are worthy of praise:

Elsie B - 1 <sup>st</sup>	Ashleigh B - 24 <sup>th</sup>
Claudia T - 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jessica S - 26 <sup>th</sup>
Jess L - 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jemima F - 27 <sup>th</sup>
Amelie H - 4 <sup>th</sup>	Maria J - 29 <sup>th</sup>
Emma M - 5 <sup>th</sup>	Yasmin S - 33 <sup>rd</sup>
Willow D-M - 8 <sup>th</sup>	Martina H - 36 <sup>th</sup>

This time round, we only had two competitors in the Inter Girls Competition; Emily D put in a strong performance, leading almost all the way round the course, but was *just* pipped on the line to finish in 2nd place. While Katy T finished in 5th.

All our Cross-Country competitors showed determination and resilience in very wet and cold conditions and nine students qualified for the County Championships in January. Good luck, girls, you are incredible!

## Special Goodbyes

This term we say goodbye to some very special members of staff, and I would like to take this opportunity to openly thank them for their support during their time with us; Mr Davenport, Miss Lissaman and Mrs Conlan are leaving us at the end of this month having secured thoroughly deserved promotions at other schools and Mrs Bond and Mrs Dakin are engaging in exciting personal and retirement adventures. We wish them all every success and every happiness too!

While we will miss all of our departing staff dearly, we are also very excited to be welcoming several new members of staff to NSG in January. Mrs Gother joins us as Assistant Headteacher, responsible for SEND and Inclusion, and she will be sending out a personal introductory letter to families upon her arrival. Mrs Gother is a highly experienced SEND specialist, with an exceptional track record and a strong local reputation. We are delighted that she has chosen to join our Senior Leadership Team to continue the excellent work that Mr Davenport has been undertaking to improve all aspects of our SEND provision at NSG. We also look forward to



welcoming Mrs Chater as Head of Chemistry, Miss Amena as Teacher of P.E and Mr Lantsbery as Teacher of Mathematics.

Following Mrs Bond's departure, Mrs Smith, who has been at NSG for many, many years, will take over as Head of Academic Standards for Year 9, working with Mrs Filby our Pastoral Officer for Year 9. Mrs Smith has been working closely with Mrs Bond for several weeks already to ensure that this is as smooth as possible for our students, and for parents and carers also.

Given the importance of the next few months for our Year 11 students, we have made some very specific and targeted pastoral arrangements for our Year 11 cohort once Miss Lissaman leaves us. Mrs Smallman, who has been overseeing Year 10 and Year 11 will have targeted pastoral oversight of Year 11, supported by Miss Hartley our Pastoral Officer and members of the Senior Leadership Team. We recognise the importance of the next few months for this year group, ahead of their final GCSE examinations, and we felt that it was prudent and appropriate to ensure that they were supported by highly experienced staff already at the school that were known to them and trusted by them.

### Final thoughts...

As we head into the very last few hours of this term, I want to thank you for your unwavering support. This means so much to us. On behalf of all the staff and governors of the school, I want to wish you all a safe and happy festive break and look forward to welcoming our students back on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

With every good wish to you and your families,



**Cristina Taboada-Naya | Headteacher  
Northampton School for Girls**

