

23rd May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Headteacher's Update

Last week marked another important milestone moment for many of our students, and indeed their families as Year 11 and Year 13 students began their formal examinations. The last two years have been an incredible journey for them.

Although they will remain with us throughout the examination series, we held our Year 11 Leavers' Assembly at school on Thursday 12th May and it provided an opportunity to celebrate their incredible achievements during their time with us and to share some very special memories. Seeing photographs of them from Year 7 onwards provided a wide range of emotions for our students and staff - it has been a pleasure to be part of their educational journey and to see them flourish.

Last week it was the turn of our Year 13 students to deliberate and remember and, in line with tradition at NSG, the sixth form student leadership team took responsibility for organising their Leavers' Assembly and did an absolutely fantastic job of it - we would like to say a big thank you to them for doing so. Thank you also to Mrs Green and to Mr Wynn for their heartfelt speeches. We will truly miss our Year 13 and wish them all the very best for their exams and for the future.

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

This year, Her Majesty the Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking an impressive 70 years of service and dedication to the country. This historic event will be marked by the four day UK bank holiday weekend taking place during the half term summer break.

To show our support for this historic event, on Friday 27th May, we will be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at school with a 'Big Jubilee Picnic', alongside other activities. Mrs Boddy will be sending a separate letter about this shortly which will contain all the details of our plans. Details will also be shared with students during tutor time tomorrow. We hope the weather remains favourable and does not scupper our picnic plans - keep your fingers tightly crossed for us!

As the additional bank holiday falls during half term, teachers have been given an extra day off following the Platinum Jubilee weekend. Therefore, by way of a reminder, school will be closed to students from **Monday 30th May to Monday 6th June**.

Please note that all examinations scheduled on **Monday 6th June** will be unaffected and will take place in the normal manner.



Composition, Instrumental and Vocal Awards (CIVA)

On Thursday 12th May, we had the pleasure of hearing some exceptional musical performances from this year's very talented CIVA winners. It was a lovely evening of entertainment with carefully chosen music, performed by a range of students across year groups. Music makes an important contribution to the life of NSG and we seek to celebrate, promote and encourage it at every opportunity. We also recognise that it helps to build our students' confidence and self-esteem and leads to higher standards across our curriculum. We would like to say an enormous thank you to the music department for organising the evening, in particular to Mr Parker compering the event and to Clare Bottle, Chair of Governors, for joining me on stage to present the awards to our worthy winners.

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

Over the course of this weekend, 37 impressive students from Year 9 completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh practise expedition. The accredited provider that we use to support our expeditions, First for Adventure, commented that our students had been "*one of the best DofE bronze groups they had taken out this season.*" In particular, they commented on their "*excellent organisation and teamwork*" on both the 12K walk and on the campsite. They will be out in June for their assessed expedition and we wish them the very best of luck - we are incredibly proud of them!

I would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Webster, Miss Huskisson, Mrs Tarlton, Mrs Startin, Mr Campbell, Mrs Adlem and Mrs Lewis for kindly volunteering to help on the expedition. We simply could not run these experiences for our students without their support and are indebted to them.

Retirements and Appointments

Sadly, this year we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Timms and Mrs Pichler who, after a combined service of over 45 years at NSG, will be retiring from their positions at the end of the summer term. You will hear much, much more from me about their enormous contributions to NSG later this term, as well as details of the new appointments we have made.

With warm wishes,



Cristina Taboada-Naya | Headteacher

