

12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Headteacher update

Despite the sprinklings of snow this week, the lighter mornings are a sure sign that spring will soon be upon us, bringing with it, hopefully, a warmer air of optimism. And so, as we reach the last few hours of another very busy half term, all our students deserve to congratulate themselves on what they have achieved over this recent period of Lockdown. We continue to be very impressed by the way everyone has embraced and engaged with remote learning, and how students have managed to keep going with their lessons during this time. Attendance at every lesson continues to be essential, and vital to ensuring that learning continues to move forward; we thank you for your continued support with this.

Thank you also for the tremendously positive response to the recent parental survey that we conducted regarding remote learning; the feedback was incredibly informative and we will be using this to inform our future planning, ensuring that we continue to refine and review our ongoing provision. Throughout this time, we remain deeply committed to maintaining a broad, balanced curriculum, recognising the importance of this in providing a rich experience for our students. At Northampton School for Girls, we have always valued the distinctive power of the arts and of sport in each young person's renewed educational experience and whilst remote learning makes replicating some of these activities more challenging, we are working hard to continuously find ways to do so. However, I cannot deny that we are all really looking forward to the re-emergence of our notoriously impressive theatre productions and concerts, our charity events, our competitions and the joyous laughter - we really do miss hearing our students' laughter.

### Drama Protagonists Club

Last week, Mrs Odell launched a 'Drama Protagonists' club; open to all year groups, this club provides an opportunity for our students to discuss, and share views on, some of the amazing theatre performances that are currently available online. For now, this club will take place remotely using Google Classroom and Google Meet, though it is our intention that this will continue, face-to-face, when we return. Information about this has already been shared directly with students; however, please do email Mrs Odell on [codell@nsg.northants.sch.uk](mailto:codell@nsg.northants.sch.uk) if you would like further information about this. We want to continue to encourage all our students to engage in enriching theatre experiences, even if these have to take place remotely, for now.

### Year 7 and Year 8: culinary competitions

Over half term, we are hoping that our Year 7 and Year 8 students will seize the opportunity to partake in the culinary competitions that we are holding for their respective year groups.



Earlier this week, Mr Simmons announced a Year 7 'pancake' competition, inviting students, and indeed staff, to create 'pancake art' and share photographs of their artwork with him by **Friday 18th February**. Mr Simmons has already shared full details of this competition with Year 7, along with some creative examples and ideas. We hope that many of our Year 7 students will get involved and look forward to seeing their creative art!

Similarly, Ms Quevedo-Guerra has organised a cooking competition for Year 8 and students are invited to submit a photograph of a dish they have cooked, originating from a Spanish speaking country. As part of this, we have asked Year 8 students to take, and submit, two photographs: one before their dish has been cooked and one showing the final version of their dish in its full splendour! Then, all students need to do is upload the photograph of their dish to the Google Classroom by **Tuesday 24th February**. Ms Quevedo-Guerra has already shared this information with students but please do contact her on [tqguerra@nsg.northants.sch.uk](mailto:tqguerra@nsg.northants.sch.uk) if you would like more details. There will be one winning dish in each Google Classroom and winners will be chosen on **Friday 26th February**. Please do encourage your daughter to get involved.

I must also add that we are very pleased at how our Year 7 and Year 8 students have engaged with Science Club @Home, launched by Mr Finney a few weeks ago – keep this up girls! Each week, students are invited to take part in scientific, and fun, challenges at home, then take a photograph of their completed experiment and submit it along with their thoughts and ideas about the science involved in each challenge. Students can access the site here: <https://sites.google.com/nsg.northants.sch.uk/nsgscience/pupils/ks3-yr7yr8/science-club-home>

### Year 9 Options webinar

Last Friday, we sent letters to Parents and Carers of students in Year 9 regarding the forthcoming 'virtual' consultation evening taking place on **Thursday 25th February** and the live 'Year 9 Choices' webinar, taking place on **Tuesday 2nd March**. The webinar event will provide full details of how to submit preference choices and we hope that all parents and carers will be able to attend. As part of the session, you will also have the opportunity to ask general questions you may have about the process.

Over half term, we would like all our students to focus on their wellbeing and physical and mental health so that they are fully recharged when the time comes to re-join us for face-to-face learning; we really cannot wait to see them again. At this current time, Monday 8th March is cited as the earliest date for schools to start to re-open and, as always, I will share full details with you once the dates for school openings have been confirmed by the government. We will recommence our remote learning on **Monday 22nd February** and the school will continue to have places available for vulnerable students and children of key workers.

I would like to wish you all a very safe half term break.

With best wishes



**Mrs C Taboada-Naya**  
Headteacher

