

Friday 10th May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has certainly been another wonderful and very, very busy week at NSG, though I suspect I may have said that when I wrote to you last week also!

External and Internal Examinations

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students remain focused as they continue to prepare for their formal examinations. We are very proud of these two year groups. They have worked incredibly hard over the last two years, and we wish them all the best in the next few weeks. Our Year 11 students have now moved to their new 'Exam School' timetable and Year 13 have moved to 'Revision Wrapped Up'. Full details of both tailored programmes of support have been shared with the specific year groups. Evidence over time shows that this refined Exam School timetable provides valuable tailored support for our Year 11 students, and we expect full attendance to this. We hope that our newly introduced version for Year 13 will provide the same support to the year group also. Many thanks to Mr Giles, Associate Assistant Headteacher, for his ongoing work on the Year 11 Exam School and to Mrs Green, Director of Sixth Form, for developing the 'Revision Wrapped Up' programme.

Although this is the first time that our Year 9 students have taken their internal assessments in a much more formalised manner as PPEs, we are immensely proud of the mature way in which they have approached these. We know that some of them felt a little nervous about this, which is completely understandable. The PPEs allow our students to begin practising the formal examination processes ahead of the GCSEs that they will take in Year 11 and allows us to begin to implement reasonable adjustments that they may need to support them. This year group have been exceptional in the maturity they have demonstrated in their approach to the PPEs, and I cannot praise them enough for how they have worked with their teachers and other staff at the school. Equally, our Year 10 students, who are now much more familiar with the PPE process, have made an impressive start to these assessments.

I would like to say a public thank you to our Examinations and Data team who have been working tirelessly to ensure that systems are in place for the exam season, with particular thanks to Dr Bell, Assistant Headteacher, who is overseeing this work, Mrs Legg, our newly appointed Examinations Officer and Ms Adams, our newly appointed Data and Projects Lead. They have certainly hit the ground running with examinations and PPEs now in full swing.



Celebrating the Arts

Our annual 'Now Dance 2024' performance took place last Friday and, once again, the evening's performance felt very, very special to us all. The audience was treated to a variety of exquisitely choreographed dance routines that showcased the athletic and creative talent of over 150 dancers from all year groups, ending with the Year 11 and Year 13 Leavers Medley. Many thanks to Mrs Thurlow, Head of Dance, and her exceptional team for organising such an incredible event. Please take a look at our social media feeds for photographs from the event.

Yesterday, we had the pleasure of hosting our annual Composition, Instrumental and Vocal Excellence awards evening. This event celebrates the exceptional talents of our young musicians. It was wonderful to see so many families joining us for this celebration and there was a tangible sense of community throughout the evening. The quality of the performances was breathtaking, and it was equally wonderful to see such diversity in the musical arrangements. Many congratulations to all the students that received an award and, of course, a huge thanks to Mr Reid, Head of Music, and Mr Parker, Assistant Headteacher for organising the event.

Sporting Achievements

I am delighted to share more exceptional and exciting sporting achievements with you this week:

- Congratulations to Kate D, Year 10, on her selection for the Scotland Cricket team. Kate spent the bank holiday weekend training in Stirling, ahead of future matches. She has also been selected for the County Cricket squad also.
- Islay U, Year 8, has always demonstrated impressive success across a range of sporting activities. Last weekend, she competed in the East Midlands Championships Final where she put in an incredible performance securing a Bronze medal in the 50M breaststroke. Huge congratulations, Islay.
- Congratulations also to Amelia-Mae W, Year 8, who has been selected for the U14 England Basketball Talent Programme, which takes place over the summer. As part of her selection, Amelia will take part in a range of championship tournaments.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

For the second year running, we have a record number of students participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award. This weekend, 120 of our Year 9 students are participating in their first overnight expedition and we have had corridors and cupboards full of waterproofs, rucksacks and tents. We hope the weekend goes brilliantly for them under the glorious May sunshine and we look forward to hearing all about it upon their safe return.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to Mrs Webster, DofE Lead, and to our incredible network of staff volunteers who are the driving force behind our DofE successes and make our work possible! Their commitment, energy and motivation are the reason we can offer so many of our students the opportunity to undertake their DofE, and there is no doubt that it is a wonderful life experience for them.

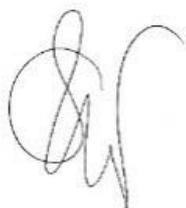
On that note, it feels opportune to congratulate alumni Eliza H, who left us last year, as she attends Buckingham Palace today to celebrate the achievement of her Gold DofE Award. What a wonderful experience it will be for her!



We have so many events planned in the coming weeks, including Sports Days, school trips, the Year 11 Prom, Year 13 Ball, and a number of summer concerts. I will make sure that we keep you fully updated and informed.

For now, I wish you a wonderful weekend.

With best wishes,



Cristina Taboada-Naya | Headteacher

