



Geographers in Wales

Shivani Dave

In September, all Year 11 GCSE geography students spent three days at the Margam Field Centre near Port Talbot.

We began on the beach looking at the different stages of sand dune formation. Despite a sudden downpour we managed to collect our measurements along the beach and see how the sand dunes developed. Over the last year we had learnt about the conditions required for a sand dune to form, however being able to see a perfect example of these conditions and be immersed in the environment, made these landforms more than just theory.

The next day we went to five points along the River Ogmore to see how the river changed along its course. We started in the upper course by a waterfall and ended by the beach at the mouth of the river. Along its short course the river runs along different rock types, which affects its rate of erosion.

We spent our last evening playing cards and listening to music in the common room. The next morning we packed our bags and said goodbye to Adam the stag (the centre is located within a beautiful 850 acre country estate, home to more than 600 deer). We then made our way to the seaside town Porthcawl to collect our last set of data.

However, our information was skewed by the large number of Elvis impersonators attending an Elvis festival going on in the town. The festival amplified the affects of tourism on this coastal town but it did make our data easier to collect as well as making our time in the town a lot more memorable!

Thank you Mr Livings, Ms Parr and Mr Lezak for organising such a great trip. It helped us to apply the theory we have learnt and gave us a chance to practise collecting and interpreting data.

Year 7 at Kew

Holly Cranmer



Earlier this term in Year 7 spent the day in Kew on a trip jointly organised by the History and Biology Departments. They spent the morning at the National Archives where they took part in a workshop focusing on the skills involved in studying primary sources. They looked at a variety of documents including a copy of the Domesday Book as well as artefacts such as seals and tally sticks.

We then had lunch in the lovely open space of the cafeteria, sitting at the long tables reserved for groups. The girls delighted a full cafeteria of adults by singing Happy Birthday to birthday girl Harinee. The singing was beautiful and as their lovely voices carried throughout the cafeteria it was clear just how well these girls had gelled as a loyal, friendly group in the space of just 5 weeks at Notting Hill & Ealing.

After lunch it was on to Kew Gardens where, in a workshop on plant reproduction, they looked at different plants. They were guided through thinking about how the seeds from these plants might be adapted for dispersal,

for example by air, attached to an animal's fur or to float on water. The second part of the workshop involved each girl dissecting a flower and viewing the constituent parts with a microscope, before making a 'collage' of the parts of a flower. The girls were very engaged throughout and loved using the forceps to take apart the flower, as well as using the microscopes.

At the end of the session the girls were very keen to visit the gift shop. Kew must have been rather surprised by the pattern of spending that day. Who would have thought that cactus plants would be so popular with Year 7!

Hoopla!

Francesca Wilson



On the second day of term, Years 12 and 13 were told that we would be taking part in a 'comedy improvisation' day to help us 'bond' as a sixth form.

Admittedly, we were initially sceptical, however once we got stuck in it ended up being a really enjoyable and fulfilling day.

We were split into groups which mixed the two year groups, which was a great way of meeting some girls who we may have never spoken to before. In improv you must work together as a team to create ideas out of nothing, with no resources apart from each other. It is all based on collaboration not competition and creating an atmosphere of safety, trust and support; excellent things to base a team building day on.

The workshop consisted of various activities and games typically used as ice breakers.

These involved memorising each other's names, memory games, and lots of short activities to encourage us to interact with the other girls in our groups. My personal favourite was when we were put in teams and told that we had to go around in a circle saying as many random words as we could, as fast as possible; something that seems extremely easy but when it gets competitive (as in true NHEHS fashion it soon did) it becomes very difficult, very quickly! This game was particularly good because it required planning of team tactics which really brought us all together.

I think most girls would agree that the day turned out to be a real success. We had a really enjoyable, funny day and I think it's safe to say we all now know a few more names around the common room. Thank you to the 'Hoopla' improv company for providing such a fantastic day!



Waterpolo

Congratulations to the U12 team winners of the GDST Year 7 Waterpolo Rally



Young Leaders Conference

Our Head Girl Team attended the GDST Young Leaders' conference held at the Royal High School Bath



Illustration

Illustrator and alumna Noelle Davies-Brock (NHEHS 2000) came back to school to run an illustration workshop for art club



Team Challenge

Year 10 and 11 got together on the last morning before half term to enjoy an hour of team building challenges. With increasing confidence they built a tower of bricks using a hoop guided by strings of wool, guided each other blindfolded through a 'mine field', untangled themselves from a human knot and, in a scenario where the world was being attacked by a giant monster, came up with creative uses for a wellington boot. Thank you to Mr Ives and his DT prowess for masterminding the session.

Sophie Castano



100% LAMDA

When the results of last summer's LAMDA examinations came out the Year 7 students (now Year 8) were delighted to discover they had all been rewarded with distinctions, and marks of over 90%. Well done to the dramatically successful group of Chloe Papageorgiou, Zoe Marsland, Angelina Koval, Alabama Howdle-Fuller, Nancy Saville-Sneath, Katie Low, Olympia Bodke, Ami Hacker, Lara Glenn, Keerit Dhillon and Mina Indjic-Ast.

Year 8 Football

Shane McComb



The Year 8 football team coached by Mr McComb and Ms Dunkley recently entered the GDST Southern Festival of Sport.

The girls played five fixtures in total against Northwood College, South Hampstead High School, Putney High, Sutton High School and Streatham and Clapham High.

After a shaky start against Streatham and Clapham and finding themselves trailing 2-0 down in the opening four minutes, the girls showed excellent resilience and determination to battle back to win with an impressive 3-2 scoreline. Beaming with confidence from this victory the girls then went on to play exciting, expansive, attacking football in their remaining four matches and eventually they

were crowned the 2017-18 Year 8 GDST Football Champions! A well deserved title!

What's most impressive about this feat is that last year in the Year 7 tournament, the same group of girls only won one match and finished second bottom in their group. This year's win highlights the substantial improvement all the girls have made over the last twelve months.

The winning squad was Leah Mentesh, Freya Rylatt, Ayna Sidhu, Alice Jenkins, Sylvie Reay, Keerit Dhillon, Neve Grosvenor, Pooja Pillai and Anna Haworth. And finally our special thanks to Northwood College for running an excellent, well-organised football workshop and tournament.

Economics Society Lecture

Aseese Nannar



On Friday 6th October, the sixth form politics and economics students were joined by some girls from Year 11 as we welcomed the Chief European Economist at Mizuho Bank, Christel Aranda-Hassel.

After having a meeting with Christel as part of my own Year 11 work experience a couple of years ago, I had become fascinated by her job and the amount of detail and research that goes into producing documents and scripts used to develop the bank's financial analysis. As she is also a strong woman in a male dominated sector I knew that she would be someone who students here would like to hear from.

Christel started her talk by telling us about her academic background and what spurred her initial interest in economics and the financial sector. She then went on to describe in further detail the work of a market economist. She also touched on the different career paths open to those with a keen interest in economics and, what I feel is most important, why she loves her job.

Following on from this, she addressed the topic of women in the financial sector and I was surprised to hear that the gap was much narrower than I thought, with around 55% being men and the remaining 45% being female. Christel spoke

about the work that Mizuho Bank are doing to address the gender imbalance; the MHI (Mizuho International Policy) has set an internal target of 30% female representation in senior management roles by 30th September 2021. I find it encouraging and motivating to see such a prominent bank taking action to in this way and hopefully we will see similar initiatives in other male dominated industries

At the end of the talk we had time for questions, which covered a wide range of topics from recent Brexit negotiations to balancing family life and work to the most useful thing she had taken away from her degree. We learnt how her job as Chief Economist draws on a vast range of subjects such as geography and history, and also involves the need to stay updated with regards to the news and current political debates.

We all left Christel's talk feeling incredibly motivated and once again on behalf of all at NHEHS, I would like to thank Christel for coming in to inspire us all.

GDST Somerville and Gurney Awards

Congratulations to Lucia Tremonti, (Year 12) who was Highly Commended in the GDST Somerville and Gurney Award essay competition.

Art Trip News

Sophie Plowden



To complement their investigations into colour theory, Year 7 visited the intriguing 'Breathing Colour' exhibition at the Design Museum. They then stopped off for a picnic lunch in Hyde Park before going on to spend the afternoon investigating colour and pattern at the V &A.

Meanwhile, Year 12 toured and sketched at the wonderfully eccentric Sir John Soane's Museum and also in the 'Matisse in the Studio' exhibition at the Royal Academy.

ISNC Netball

The National Independent Schools Netball Cup (ISNC) competition is a knockout competition which this year involves over 100 teams from across the country.

In the U15 first round we welcomed the team from Royal Russell School to NHEHS and in tight match produced a 38-36 goal win seeing NHEHS through to the second round of the competition.

The U18 team of Sascha Ootam (Captain), Alice Wells, Jasmin Hall, Fatma Hammad, Rosie Glenn, Hermione Morris, Isabel Jansen, Hannah Leathem, Jess Luxmoore, Alex Michelmore, Emily Palmer and Nikola Kuzmanovic travelled to Forest School and clinched a win 29- 41. They now also proceed to the next round.

Finally, the U13s having won against JAGS 25-17 in the first round, travelled to Haileybury School for their second round match. Although it was neck and neck throughout the match, they lost by four goals, 27-31. The team was: Mairu Gillespie, Freya Rylatt, Alix Ryan, Tatyana Scarlett, Jasmine Saha, Keerit Dhillon, Isabella Farlow, Isabella Bartlett, Sofia Bevers and Ayna Sidhu.

Art History at Tate Britain

Theresa Morgan



At the end of September, Year 12 art historians attended a study day at Tate Britain run by academics from the University of Sussex.

The day featured a series of snappy lectures on such diverse topics as: the surreal landscape paintings of British modernists that shifted the (usually urban) focus of avant-garde art to the English countryside; the image of the Nagasaki mushroom cloud as a recurrent motif in 20th-century visual culture across the globe - from the epicentre in Japan to Salvador Dali in Spain; and Yinka Shonibare's batik fabric-bedecked "Nelson's Ship in a Bottle" on the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square.

These short talks were spliced with longer gallery-based

sessions during which we explored works relating to the themes of War, Identities and Nature. We considered, for instance, how the revealing juxtapositions created by a curator's careful 'hang' can modify our interpretation of certain works.

After a very absorbing day, we were also delighted to see the Duveen Gallery filled with a large-scale installation by Rachel Whiteread, the first woman artist to win the Turner Prize and future protagonist of our "Pop Life" A Level module.



D of E Silver

Navigating near the Dorset Coast on the D of E silver practice expedition in September.



Middlesex Netball

The U16 team made a great start in the Middlesex qualifying tournament going unbeaten all day, against rival schools LEH, Highgate, NLCS, SHHS, Henrietta Barnett and St Helen's. There were outstanding performances from all of the team of: Lucia Hodgkinson, Emily Palmer, Hannah Leathem, Jojo Loxton, Kira Nygren, Alex Michelmore, Isabel Jansen, Jess Luxmore and Isabella Holmes.



Hockey News

Following their win at the county tournament the U14 Hockey team have been crowned Middlesex County Champions.

Huge congratulations to Miss Greenslade and Miss Munro and the team who will now progress onto the Regional Round. The team is:

Freya Rylatt, Jasmine Saha, Ayna Sidhu, Lily Side-
so, Natasha Jones, Jasmine Palmer, Sophie Clax-
ton, Asha Rai, Alejandra Branley, Isabella Morgan,
Isobel Thornton, Florence Pilling,
Alice Szlachetko and Mia Mutadich.

The U13 A and U13B hockey teams took part in the annual invitational tournament organised by Latymer Upper.

The U13 B team of Zara Talbot, Neve Grosvenor, Chloe Papageorgiou, Pooja Pillai, Charlotte Pons, Sadie Packham-Lawrence, Zoe Marsland, Nina Stidham, Emma Vince, Korina Szyszko- Nicewicz, and Divyasre Kaliappan also brought home some silverware by winning the B Team plate competition!

Sophie Nicholas

Reality TV Alumnae

Natalie Burns Spence



Heavenly halibut, perfectly poached pear and a classy Camembert helped sweep BBC presenter and NHEHS alumna, Angellica Bell (NHEHS 1993), to victory in the final of BBC One's *Celebrity Masterchef 2017*. After weeks of culinary challenges she finished with a three course meal praised as 'stunning' and 'joyous' by the judges



In stark contrast, alumna Dr Sara Kayat (NHEHS 2003) survived Bear Gryll's *Celebrity Island* in the recent Channel 4 series with very little to eat! A practising GP she became the physician to the other participants and it was her calm and strong demeanour, in the harshest of conditions, which helped them all safely through.

Young Enterprise 2017-2018

Shane McComb

Young Enterprise is a national competition run for Year 12 students which gives them opportunity to take part in organising their own company. Students will work together to create a business idea and then develop this throughout the year, present their idea at various events and compete in Young Enterprise competitions.

Being part of Young Enterprise will help to develop presentation skills, business acumen and cement a student's ability to work as part of a team – all of these skills are transferable for employment and higher education. This year we have been lucky enough to secure the assistance of business advisors who are currently employed with Disney and they will be on hand each week to help guide our Year 12 entrepreneurs during their board meetings.

This year we have three teams taking part and each team will be pursuing a distinct business and marketing a different product. You will find all our YE businesses at the NHEHS Christmas Bazaar so ensure you check out their wonderful products which will be available for you to buy!

11HLC's Charity Week

Maia Davies



Our form (11HLC) decided to choose Depaul UK for our Charity week, as they are a charity that helps people who are homeless, vulnerable and disadvantaged. We were drawn to this charity as we love that their goal is to help people to get back on their feet,

improve their quality of life and help them stay off the streets for good. Depaul UK achieve this by providing safe shelter, accommodation, food and also the social services they need. Like any other charity, they depend on people like us

fundraising to help them continue their amazing work.

Therefore, we organised a Friday event consisting of a “Generation -Gap” teacher’s quiz. The quiz was held in the Recital Hall where students enjoyed watching teams of staff being quizzed on topics including social media, slang, celebrity news and reality TV shows. In addition to this, we also sold cakes to students and staff throughout week.

Finally, by the end of the week we were proud to discover we had raised just over £180 for Depaul UK whilst also raising awareness of the charity, which we feel is equally as important.

Tea Time Concert

Hester Goodsell



The first informal Tea Time concert of the year took place on Thursday 19th October and showcased performers from Years 7-13.

There were some confident first time performers, notably two groups of Year 7 singers and Sadie Newman and Evangeline Rudakevich performing Mozart's *Sonata No. 16 in C Major*. Amira Nuseibeh impressed with her rendition of *Aria* by Bozza and the concert concluded with the Year 11 performers Bethan Davies-Asmar and Charlotte Grimwade playing pieces they are preparing for their Grade 8 flute examinations.

Year 7 at HOAC

Elly Nicoll

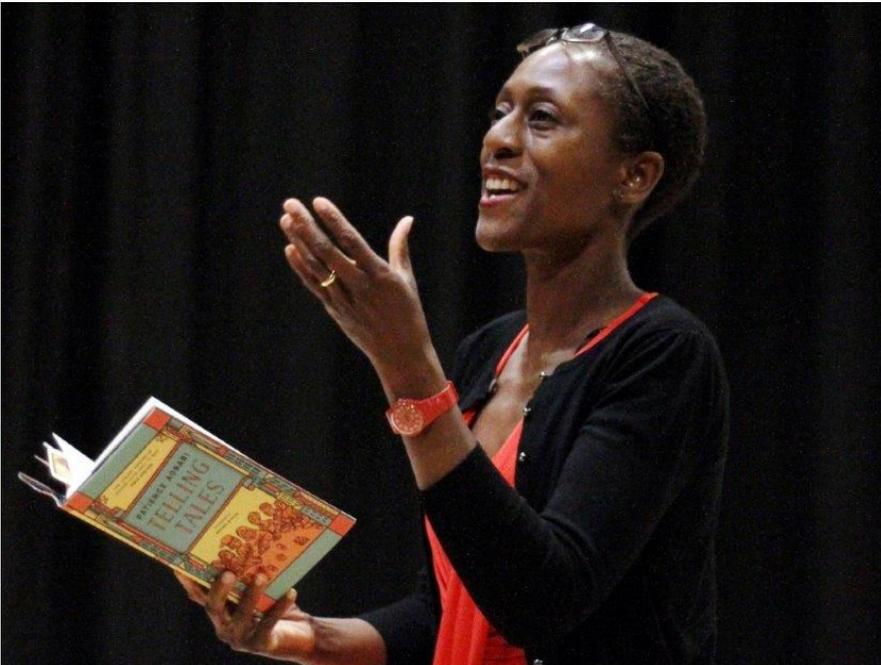
On Friday 15th September, a group of intrepid Year 7s boarded the coach for their team building day at Hillingdon Outdoor Activity Centre. They wowed their instructors by the speed with which they did everything (apparently they were much quicker – and better – than the group of 18 year olds from the day before!) and how well they listened to each other.

It was a very successful day. The rafts held together, those who wanted to take a quick dip in the water did, and the team building activities helped girls meet lots of new people and make new friends. There was also some very healthy competition between the groups!



National Poetry Day

Hayley Silvester



On 28 September, NHEHS celebrated National Poetry Day! The theme this year was “Freedom”.

We were delighted to welcome the renowned performance poet Patience Agbabi. Best known for her spoken verse, Patience has published several poetry anthologies, is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and is also a judge in the prestigious Poetry by Heart competition. Throughout the day, Patience ran workshops with groups of Year 10 students, focusing on the form and structure of poems and encouraging them to explore their own writing styles. The girls who participated in these workshops found them inspiring and engaging.

Girls in Years 11, 12 and 13 were also treated to a poetry reading

by Patience, which included poems from her *Telling Tales* collection. These poems are based on Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales* and have been the inspiration behind some creative writing work undertaken in sixth form English literature lessons in response to our own Chaucer A Level set text. Hearing Patience deliver her impassioned performance of some of the *Tales*, was both enjoyable and enlightening.

Inspired by Patience Agbabi, some of our Year 13 students from Miss Nuding’s class also performed their own versions of the Pluto and Proserpina digression from Chaucer’s ‘Merchant’s Tale’ in assembly. One Year 13 student, who is hoping to study Music Production at university, took this a step further and converted

her own poem into a fantastic ballad with instrumental accompaniment! Thanks go to Charlotte, Joanna, Ellie, Bea and Lucia for sharing their work.

Meanwhile, girls in Years 7, 8 and 9 had written their own poetry on the theme of ‘freedom’. The English Department were very impressed with the wide range of interpretations of the theme, which made choosing a winner very difficult. The eventual winning poems from each Year were performed with great gusto and enthusiasm in front of the whole school. Well done to Lewhat, Hattie and Izzy for their excellent poems.

At lunch time we also hosted the first ever NHEHS “Poetry Slam” competition. Armed with a microphone and a captivated audience in the Atrium, girls recited a poem of their choice with the chance to earn points for their Houses. There were some excellent performances – some individual and some in pairs – and the winners will be announced later this term.

Overall, this was a busy, exciting and inspiring day for everyone. It encouraged our students to think beyond standard poetic material, and to consider the true meaning of freedom.

Arkwright Scholarship Winner



Arkwright Scholarships are fiercely contested national awards designed to support sixth form students who would like to pursue a future career in engineering. We are delighted to announce that this year Cassia Fillingham (Year 12) has been awarded one of these highly prestigious scholarships.

Prospective scholars take part in a selection process between February and July while they are still students in Year 11. If their initial online application is successful, they are then required to sit a challenging two-hour aptitude exam designed to test their ability to apply technical knowledge and develop innovative solutions to

real-world engineering challenges.

Those who successfully pass the exam are then called to an interview with a panel of engineers. Cassia was interviewed at Brunel University where she presented a portfolio which included her GCSE Design Technology project and her work as part of the team that reached the finals of the national Lego Robotics competition earlier this year. It is perhaps also worth pointing out that Cassia secured her scholarship while also preparing for her GCSE exams (and we are delighted to report that her results there were stellar too !) As part of the prize the NHEHS DT department will

also benefit, receiving a cash prize to be spent on equipment and materials that enhance the delivery of STEM subjects.

Cassia is now looking forward to attending the award ceremony next month and meeting representatives from the Happold Foundation who will be her sponsor for the next two years. The Foundation is committed to helping students achieve a better understanding of the world of engineering in the built environment and are an ideal sponsor for Cassia whose interest lies in architectural engineering. Through the Foundation she will be offered funding to support her learning and a range of opportunities designed to enhance her A Level studies, including an industry mentor, work placements and the opportunity to attend various seminars and events. A great start to what we are sure will be a great future career.

Save the Date

Senior Autumn Term Concert	Tuesday 14 November, Senior School Hall, 7pm
Senior School Production: <i>Sweet Charity</i>	Thursday 13 November, Friday 24 November, Saturday 25 November
Parents' Guild Christmas Bazaar	Saturday, 2nd December, Senior School Hall, 12.00– 3.30pm.
Senior School Carol Concert	Monday 11 November, St Barnabas Church

For more information and ticket details see Schoolcomms

Year 6 Visit the Chemistry Department

Andy Crame



Year 6 have been reading about the use of poison gas in World War I and paid a visit to the Senior School chemistry lab to see at first hand the properties chlorine, of one of the gases used.

They observed the preparation of this green gas (within the confines of a very good fume cupboard). They were also able to see its bleaching power when red rose petals left in the gas turned a ghostly white. They saw that chlorine could be syphoned like water, demonstrating that it is heavier than air and leaving them with an idea of what it must have been like being below ground in a trench during a gas attack.

Year 6 were excited by the vigorous reaction of chlorine with molten sodium to give salt, an example of two very reactive and dangerous chemicals combining to give an extremely stable and essential compound. Finally, having seen the combination of the two elements, the girls performed the opposite reaction and used electricity to split up a salt solution. This formed chlorine, at a low enough level to enable them to smell it safely, together with bleach solution. This showed that although chlorine is very dangerous and a horrible gas to use in war, it can be used to make substances that are very beneficial and enhance our lives.



OGA Annual Reunion Tea

On Saturday 17 September, around 300 Old Girls returned to school to reminisce over sandwiches, scones and cake. As the date also coincided with the school's 144th birthday there was also a glass of something fizzy to celebrate the occasion.

There were organised reunions for Leavers from 2012, 2007, 2000, 1997, 1992, 1987, 1981, 1977, 1972, 1967 and 1957. There were also tours of the school buildings new and old, hosted by current sixth formers. This year, as an added attraction, the Old Girls versus Sixth Form netball match had been moved from its traditional late September evening slot to be played in front of a capacity crowd out on the astro-pitch.

The starting whistle was blown by Miss Chapman, Head of PE 1951-1984, and the sun shone for the duration of the match. Despite vocal support from an unashamedly partisan audience, the OG team lost to the sixth formers (once again) though we have been assured that the OG team will train even harder in the run up to next year's event.

Natalie Burns Spence

What Am I?

Writing Riddle Poems

Critical Thinking Club

At the end of September, Critical Thinking Club, the popular club for Year 8 which encourages thinking outside the box, held a special activity in conjunction with National Poetry Day. The girls devised their own poetry riddles and here is a selection of some of the best.

Imogen Day 8H

A dog that's bullish
A Prime Minister of the UK voting my Nan's era
Robots for users
Useless to those in the back seat
What am I?

(answer: Car Insurance)

Sakeena Sanders 8E

I manage your time,
I transmit messages,
I play music,
I am very old,
I am used every day,
I have been re-invented.
What am I?

(answer: A Bell)

Saira Backhouse 8E

A sign of love
but also greed
A jewel shining so bright
piled upon each other to 5 small towers,
There is a green one that yields the power!
What am I?

(answer: A Ring)

Yasmeen Chishti 8H

A clatter of nails will leave a clear ring,
Whilst a bell can go ping, ping.
The sway and swish of some oval leaves,
Will make your head feel
like a million working thieves.
And not to forget some physics is required...
What am I?

(answer: Noise)

Sophie Castano

Languages Week

Simon Piesse



'Learning a language is like putting on a different pair of glasses.' Lily Stott, Year 13

The MFL department, complete with its new logo, designed by Emma Vince and Saira Backhouse in 8E, organised the first ever NHEHS Languages Week from 9th to 13th October.

The week was launched by our Year 9 linguists, who spoke in assembly about their trips to Munich, Avila and Normandy, all in the target language. The whole school community then got stuck in to a smøgasbord of activities, which celebrated the value of language learning and cultural diversity.

Form tutors tested their students' cultural knowledge in a specially designed quiz from

CILT, the National Centre for Languages, in which questions dealt with the number of people injured in wildlife-related accidents in Sweden, the meaning of Real Madrid (Real, Royal or Great) and the number of languages spoken in London (over 300).

Amber Bonnor Morris (Year 9) was the winner of the popular Staff -Student Meet and Greet Challenge in which students had all week to find 30 teachers wearing 30 different language badges and greet them appropriately in that language. Over 40 brave girls took part in our global blind tasting challenge, there were language workshops including a chance to try your hand at Chinese brush painting and even our lunch menus took on an international flavour.

The week was rounded off by an 'own clothes day' in which everyone was encouraged to pay £1 and come to school dressed in the colours of their national flag. All funds go to 11FJ's chosen charity 'Befriend a Family' which supports families in need in Westminster.

Model United Nations

Georgie Redhead



On Saturday, 7 October, a large number of NHEHS girls were joined by students from Hampton, St Paul's School and London Oratory School for the very first Notting Hill and Ealing Model United Nations Conference, confusingly, but logically, branded 'NOTMUN'

Girls from NHEHS have been attending MUN conferences at schools all over London for many years but this was the first time we had played host ourselves to an MUN event.

MUN conferences involve learning about diplomacy, international relations, and the United Nations but they also provide opportunities to research, practice public speaking, debating, and writing skills, and develop teamwork and leadership abilities. To these ends the event was organised by four dedicated Year 13 students (Tamara Asassa, Eve Harrington, Georgie Redhead and Celia Riddiough) with help and support from Mrs Swift. This meant that on the day the event was entirely student led.

We started the day with a riveting talk from Jonathan Tait Harris, who gave a fascinating insight into his experiences as a UN war crimes investigator. Then debates were chaired by Year 13 students from NHEHS along with students from visiting schools. I chaired the Economic and Social Committee where delegates debated topics including world poverty and care for the elderly. Other committees debated topics such as the growing crisis in North Korea, and the war on drugs.

We ended the day in General Assembly, where delegates tried to find a solution to a sudden emergency when it was announced that 'America has published plans to leave the UN'.

Throughout the day everyone involved argued their positions with eloquence and enthusiasm. It was a great deal of fun and a day full of fruitful debate and newly formed friendships.

Badminton

Our badminton team began the season with a fixture against St Augustine's. They lost only 5 out of 40 matches, with the final games tally being 205- 123. A standout performance came from team captain Tara Al-Haddad in Year 7 and thank you and well done to Thushika Ravichandaran and Amelia Hall (Year 10) for their involvement.

Ibstock Place Netball tournament

Sophie Nicholas



The week of 18 September saw the Notting Hill and Ealing U12, U13 and U14 netball teams enter the annual Ibstock Place start of season tournaments, which this year, involved teams from twelve independent and grammar schools from all over Middlesex and Surrey

Monday 18th was the turn of the U13 team, who the week before had had a strong win in the Independent Schools Cup. The team built through their pool stage, trying new combinations and fomenting team plays. After winning their pool stage they came up against Godolphin and Latymer in the semi-final. A tight match saw Notting Hill and Ealing take the win 9-7. They then faced Surbiton High School in the final. Again, the U13s had another neck and neck game on their hands, but with calm shooting and a strong defence, they took the win 9-8, winning the whole tournament.

On Tuesday 19th was the turn of the U12 team, who have just started to play together as a team. The girls started strongly, with excellent shooting from Alisha Williams and Caitlyn Thompson, finishing second in their pool to Surbiton High out of six teams. The girls were then drawn against Godolphin and Latymer in the semi-final. Although again the girls started strongly, they couldn't pull ahead of their opposition and errors in the second half meant they lost. To finish the day the girls faced a 3rd place play-off against rivals Surbiton. Excellent defence from Genevieve Pearce created crucial turnover which allowed the girls to get the win in extra-time and secure a deserved bronze medal position.

To finish the week, the U14 team took to the stage on the Friday. The girls really showed a strong team effort in the group stages, with all twelve players taking

to the court and doing their bit to gain win after win. After playing and beating Ibstock, Harrodian, Kew House and Godolphin and Latymer, the team was drawn against Emmanuel in the semi-final. Notting Hill pulled away in the early stages of the game with Emmanuel fighting strongly to try and come back, but Notting Hill held the win, finishing three goals up. The final was then against Surbiton High, who had also not lost a game all day. An outstanding team effort by the seven girls who took to the court, Mia Mutadich, Isobel Thornton, Sophie Claxton, Natasha Jones, Jasmine Palmer, Isobel Thornton and Edith Elwes, gave the team a two goal win in extra time!

Two tournament wins and a third place made it an excellent start of season for our younger teams.

Machine Translation

Ines Mugbar-Spencer

Marcus Tomalin from Downing College, Cambridge, visited the school to give a presentation on machine translation. In his exploration of the topic, he discussed the fascinating overlap of mathematics and computer science, with linguistics and literature.

After a brief rundown of the history behind machine translation, Tomalin explained 'Neural Machine Translation'. This is the framework that Google Translate and other computer translation services use, and works by using a complex systems patterns and probability, mapping words to numbers in order to assemble correct syntax structure and choosing the vocabulary based on data it had previously seen.

There are different ways in which the reliability and skill of a network is measured, mainly seeing the accuracy (preserving the meaning of the original source) and fluency (using the language idiomatically or as naturally as a native speaker). Tomalin acknowledged the great strides that machine translation had made, but also the many ways it is still lacking, particularly in accuracy. For instance, Google translate often uses pivoting (instead of translating directly from French to Icelandic, which it

might not have much data on, it'll translate from French to English and then finally Icelandic) which effectively means that an error is twice as likely. Then, there are many problems with the data that is being analysed. Language, being the strange social art that it is, one word may carry many different connotations depending on context. This means different networks may be suited to translating different things depending on the data it has seen, so one network is better at translating at translating business contracts while another is better at translating tweets.

And then, because translations learn and mimic the data they are exposed to, some of the prejudices society holds end up being reflected back at us.

Tomalin gave the example of 'nurse' being automatically gendered as female in a translation, because in most the data the program is trained on, nurse is given as female. Of course, as well as the troubling insight into the various stereotypes and biases all cultures have and how it manifests in language, there is also a huge chance of comic mishaps. Machine translation really struggles with words with multiple meanings as well as metaphors and other literary

devices. This means that humour and poetry often translate poorly. Though this can show the many interesting differences between languages and cultures globally (how many languages have the phrase 'it's raining cats and dogs', and in how many languages is that 'mumbo-jumbo'), it is often just amusing. Tomalin introduced the work of Marzia Grillo, who took poems by Emily Dickinson and translated them instantly into Italian, and then published the results. Dickinson's *One with the Banner Gay* ('gay' here meaning joyful) became 'Uno con la bandiera gay' ('gay' here meaning homosexual, as opposed to 'felice' which means happy).

Machine translation seems to be still in it's infancy, but it improves every day and is gradually learning to accurately translate sophisticated texts. Even without machines, perfect translation and translation loss were always issues of debate and controversy, and so whether a perfect translation is possible really depends on your stance on those issues. In the end, Marcus Tomalin managed to shed some light on a complex and relevant topic, helped bridge gaps between subjects, and keep discussion about machines quite human.

Why I love Coding

Erin Malinowski and Grace Sergeant



Erin – Year 11

So, the main reason I like it is because of the feeling of satisfaction I get when my program runs exactly as I want it to with no problems. I find it even more rewarding when I've been working on a specific program for a long time and haven't been able to get it to work, because then, when I do finally figure out what was wrong with my code, whether it be a logic, mathematical, name or syntax error, I feel really content and happy with myself. This feeling of fulfilment is further heightened by the knowledge that I have independently understood what I want my program to do and then been able to methodically and logically work my way through the task.

For one problem there are many solutions all of which accurately perform the required tasks just as well as each other. As a result, when, as a class, we're set a new

challenge everyone has a different method and no two final solutions are alike. Therefore, I really feel I have accomplished something when I get to the end of programming a set of instructions which I have spent many hours coding and re-coding until I get the perfect solution, as I know that my program is my own and unique.

Grace - Year 10

I love coding because of the problem solving. The challenges that leave me in complete and utter despair are my favourites. Even if sometimes I want to throw my computer out of the window and hope that maybe if I do then it will just go away.

Currently, we're using a program called Python and the day I found a small bit of code that could do part of my maths homework for me was a great day. I usually find coding quite easy because it's just logic. However, this isn't always the case early on a Thursday morning in class when my brain still feels like it's hitting the snooze button. Normally though, I can manage to get my mind working enough find the logic and the program spots the rest.

Honestly, coding is the future and I can't wait to learn more.



Cross Country

Friday the 13th was clearly a lucky day for our cross country runners, as the intermediate cross country team saw off some tough opposition from James Allen's Girls', Queen's Gate, Streatham and Clapham High School, Queen's College, Godolphin and Latymer and South Hampstead High School to qualify for the Regional Round of the English Schools Cross Country Cup. Well done to the team of: Jasmine Palmer, Fiona Coutts, Natasha Jones, Ella Pilkington, Mia Mutadich and Lauren Beale.

In the Ealing Schools Cross Country Championship Notting Hill & Ealing dominated the field finishing the meet as overall winners. In the Year 7 competition the team made an excellent start to their running careers at NHEHS with Ella Palmer finishing 1st out of all Year 7 pupils and Eva Marie Weintraub and Sofia Bevers coming 4th and 5th out of all Year 7 and 8 girls.

In Year 9 Jasmine Plamer, Fiona Coutts and Natasha Jones brought home a fabulous triple, finishing 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively in the Year 9 and 10 race. To make it even better all other Year 9's who ran Mia Mutadich, Lauren Beale, Juliet Kose and Anaiya Thakore finished in a top 10 position! Meanwhile, In the Year 11 and 12 race Cameron Thomas finished 1st and Anna MacKenzie in 3rd place.

Congratulations to everyone who ran so well.