



notting hill and ealing high school

Senior School Newsletter
Summer 2016



Farewell Ms Hunt

On 6 July we said goodbye to Ms Hunt in an afternoon designed to reflect all the things she loves best about the school, some of the things we know from her assemblies that she feels passionate about and to celebrate just a few of the things she has done in her eight fantastic years as Head.

An opening dance performance was followed by a display put on by the Mandarin Department with songs, a lion dance and a fan dance. Music was provided by the flute ensemble (a medley from the *Sound of Music*) and by Maya Caskie (Chopin's *Nocturne in C Minor*) and Erin Holder (Mozart's *Violin Concerto in G Major*). The Harmony Choir sang *When I Grow Up* from the musical *Matilda* and Year 12 drama students performed an extract from *Blue Stockings*, Jessica Swale's play about women's fight for education and equality.

The afternoon was rounded off with a series of vignettes

entitled 'Since I've been here ...' with one girl representing each year group. They spoke humorously and with great affection about their own time at the school (from the number of school lunches eaten to a reminiscence about a first meeting with Ms Hunt) and described the changes they had seen since they had joined Notting Hill and Ealing.

Mrs Raraty made a speech thanking Ms Hunt, telling her how much we would miss her and wishing her well on behalf of us all. She also touched not only on Ms Hunt's legacy in terms of the fantastic buildings we now have, but on the opportunities she has ensured everyone enjoys. On behalf of the School, Head Girl, Anouschka Rajah presented Ms Hunt with a picture in which fingerprints of girls in the school had been used to make up a unique version of our logo and on behalf of staff, girls and their parents, Mrs Raraty presented Ms Hunt with a rose bush and vouchers to help fund some garden plans.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Kate Pygram



On Wednesday 15th June, Year 8 climbed onto the coach, happy to be away from lessons, heading for the South Bank. We were going to see Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, at the Globe Theatre, and we were all very excited.

After a full-on karaoke session, we arrived at our destination, brimming with anticipation. We were pleased to be set free to find a place for lunch, (we spent most of the time chasing pigeons and getting extremely lost in Tate Modern) and then finally it was time to enter the theatre.

It was phenomenally busy and once we found our seats, the group selfies began. After numerous attempts at getting everyone smiling at the same

time and finding the best Snapchat filter, with perfect timing the play began, just as we finished saving our photos.

The stage was set in a Bollywood style, chains of flowers hung from the arches, and Oberon's costume was in true Bollywood fashion with a gold turban, baggy shirt, cuffed trousers and a jewelled belt. Different musical instruments were used to provide live music and there were Bollywood dance routines, giving a twist to the original play, which was set in Greece.

Puck made her debut entrance by spraying people with her water gun, making us all laugh at the unfortunate people who got wet. The actors utilised tables placed in the middle of the audience,

which brought them closer to us and made us feel part of their lives. They used the tables throughout the play and the highlights of the play were shown on the tables, including the kissing scenes.

A man played "Helenus", a female part. During the 16th century, women weren't allowed to act in plays, so female roles would be played by men, as also shown in the Mechanicals' version of *Pyramus and Thisbe*. In addition, in a modern twist, the Mechanicals doubled up as the Health and Safety team, who made everyone laugh, as they pretended to be air stewards and stewardesses, explaining how we were not on "Easy Jet".

All the actors portrayed their characters in a modern, current style, whilst still keeping the Shakespearean element intact. As an example, lip balm was used during a fight scene to remove the taste of a female's kiss. This helped us to place Shakespeare's writing in today's society.

We were sorry to leave the Globe, and we were all grateful for the privilege of this school trip, as it brought Shakespeare's work home to us in a new, exciting way.

Bath

Sanam Mehli and Anya Popat



One Monday in early July, 16 enthusiastic Year 10 Latin students met Miss Patel and Miss Nicoll at Paddington Station. After collecting the tickets – and, of course, sorting out who sits next to whom – we climbed aboard the train. 90 minutes, 20 games of hangman, and 30 songs later, we finally arrived at our destination – Bath.

After a short walk to the museum we waited outside, whilst the rich tones of opera music from a local busker filled our ears. Finally, we were allowed in. Before we were given the chance to walk around and explore, we were handed audio guides which would explain each display and artefact. Just like many museums, each audio guide had both adult and child explanations, which led to many of us obviously opting for the latter.

We wandered around admiring different rooms and objects, as well as filming clips for our group projects. Personal favourites varied from the Tepidarium (the warm room) to the Spring Water provided (which tasted of egg!!). Miss Patel explained her favourite was the display of expensive rings which people had lost in the waters whilst Miss Nicoll selected the Roman-style jacuzzi. Once we had been around all of the museum, taken enough selfies by the baths to last a lifetime, and raided the gift shop, we were ready for lunch.

Tickets to visit the baths and the museum also include entry to Bath's famous Museum of Fashion, so, after lunch off we headed to learn about fashion through the ages. We all marvelled at the ravishing embroidery on the dresses, and took selfies with our favourite ones. Some of us dressed up in Georgian and Victorian attire; even daring to try on incredibly tight corsets (resulting in a lot of panicking about fainting), some tried on typical Georgian men's fashion, and some (including Miss Nicoll and Miss Patel) tried on glorious Victorian hats and dresses.

Thank you, Miss Nicoll and Miss Patel, for such a superb and entertaining trip.



Farewell Ms Hunt..

The Year 12 drama students who performed an excerpt from Jessica Swale's play *Blue Stockings*



The Mandarin Department's dragon dancers and fan dancers take a bow.



Dancers from Year 7 and 8 opened the afternoon's performances.



Gems

As part of their studies into rocks and Earth Science, Year 7 were privileged to have Amanda Bryant come in to talk to them about gemstones.

Her wonderfully instructive talk also involved the girls in several hands-on activities.

They were able to look at the uncut crystals and comment on their colour, surface, shape and regularity. Girls were then able to look at different gems and observe colour changes when light is passed through them, both in air and underwater, tests which are used to distinguish between stones. Finally, they were able to discover all the facets of a ruby by looking at it under a microscope.

We thoroughly enjoyed this journey into the world of gems and would like to thank Amanda for generously giving her time to talk to us.

Anna Duns

Cambridge C3L6 Challenge

Philip Sheldon



With prize categories named after elements, the national Cambridge C3L6 Chemistry Competition attracts over 7000 entries and is designed to challenge the brightest Year 12 chemistry students in the country.

The 90-minute paper was sat in the week after completion of the AS level examinations.

The first question was on the use of specialised forms of titanium dioxide (the most common white pigment in paint) that removes polluting nitrogen oxide gases.

Another question was topically themed, around the Zika virus and insecticides.

Congratulations to all the Year 12 girls who took part and to the following for their successes in the competition:

Gold Award

(top 7% of entries nationally)

Natasha Sharma

Silver Award

(14% of entries nationally)

Rebecca Eckles

Bella Wong

Copper Award

(36% of entries nationally)

Ellie Cooper

Ammaarah Felix

Hannah Lefroy

Ball Patrol

Annette Greenslade

Congratulations to Amy Turner who had a key volunteer role working with the world's top international hockey teams and officials, pitch side at the recent International Hockey Federation Champions Trophy Hockey Tournament. Amy was part of the tournament Ball Patrol Team at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, in June.

Art History Gallery Visits

Theresa Morgan



Year 12 students have rounded off their first year of Art History with three Friday afternoon trips up to town.

We started with a visit to the National Gallery, where we studied shifts in Italian Renaissance painting from the mid-15th to the early 16th century, looking at magnificent altarpieces by Piero della Francesca, Leonardo, Raphael

and Sebastiano del Piombo.

The following Friday we toured Switch House, Herzog & de Meuron's recently completed extension project at Tate Modern. We admired the building's sweeping 10-storey ziggurat form, with its lattice-like brickwork to match the old power station next door, before going inside the new gallery spaces to look at artworks dating from the 1960s to the

present day and made by artists from across the globe. These included installations of foam, couscous and human hair, and which featured macaws (sadly missing that day); interactive pieces to be rearranged, peered into or walked upon; and live and recorded performances.

The final Friday we were back at Tate once more for an exhibition of work by an artist who likewise makes installations out of non-traditional materials: the Beirut-born, Palestinian artist Mona Hatoum, who has been based in the UK since the 1970s. Hatoum's work addresses themes such as displacement, oppression, confinement and conflict, and Tate's sobering display features elegant yet often threatening pieces made from barbed wire, stacked cages, enlarged or electrified household objects, and precarious substances such as soap, as well as films and records of performances.

We left the show with the sinister buzz of a potentially fatal electric current that passed through one such installation of kitchen utensils still ringing in our ears...

Year 8 in Normandy

Chloe Bragança Vasconcelos



On the 24th of June, everyone in Year 8 went to either France or Spain, depending on their first European language choice at school. For me it all began at 4.30am as a group of around 40 very sleepy Year 8 girls boarded the coach to Portsmouth.

On the ferry, there was a lot to do. I spent most of my time playing cards with my friends, but there was also a limbo contest, a quiz (which my team won), and a cinema.

A 6-hour journey later, we had arrived in France and were welcomed by a bright blue sky. We were staying at a picturesque Gîte in a little town called St Fraimbault in remote Normandy. Everyone slept very well that night after a tiring journey.

On Saturday, we went to a market in the streets of Avranches, where

we had to find out the price of certain items and discover which cheese came from Normandy. After a picnic in the sun in a botanic gardens, we took the coach to Mont St Michel.

On Sunday, we went to Arromanches, one of the beaches where the D-day landing took place in June 1944. We watched a 20 minute documentary about the story of the liberation of France by the Allies in a 360° cinema. Afterwards, we went onto the beach, where we ate “cake by the ocean”. Loads of people bought an ice cream. There were so many flavours, it was hard to choose.

In the afternoon, we attended a cooking course, which was the highlight of my trip. Everyone made bread and there were lots of different shapes, although plaited bread was quite popular. Then we each got to have a go at making

crêpes on a proper crêpe griddle.

This was the favourite part of the trip for a lot of people, even though some of the crêpes may have come out slightly misshapen.

On Monday, we brought our suitcases down to the coach and made our way to see the Bayeux Tapestry. It was an educational visit, although the best bit was definitely at the end when we were allowed to wander around for half an hour to buy an ice cream or a crêpe (or a waffle in my case!).

At around midnight on 27th of June, we arrived back at school, very tired but feeling a bit more French than we had been when we left on account of all the French food we had eaten and all the French we had spoken. Thank you to Mrs Tremayne, Miss Romero, Miss Genge and Mrs Sheik for accompanying us on the trip and for organizing it!

Minimus 2016

Alex Smith



Another year over and another tense wait for the results of the National Mythology Competition. Now with over 100 entries this is a competition which gets stiffer every year.

Every year, Year 4 pupils at the Junior School and Year 5 and 6 pupils from North Ealing Primary each make a film based on a myth to enter for the competition. This year's myth was 'Perseus and Medusa': the heroic story of how Perseus overcame this dreaded, snake-haired monster who had the power to turn people to stone just by looking at them.

It was performed entirely in Latin. Sophie Greenstreet, 13TH, with a Year 11 team, led the NHEHS Junior School entry and Georgia Lyons, 13PS, with a sixth form team, led the North Ealing Primary entry. We are pleased to say that we have emerged as winners for the 5th year in a row

with both entries sharing the winning prize.

The judges had the following to say about the films:

"The filming, the script, the acting and directing were all carried out with energy and exuberance."

The judges also particularly praised the two Year 13 lead teachers, Sophie and Georgia, for their outstanding Latin scripts.

The best part of this project, and the bit of which we are most proud, remains the fact that it is run by the girls themselves. They love giving younger pupils the opportunity to learn Latin and everyone involved should be delighted with another successful year.

To view the video, produced after just 3 half-hour sessions with the girls: <https://nhehsssenior.fireflycloud.net/classics/classics-society/minimus/minimus-films>



Leavers' Ceremony

On 30 June, our Year 13 girls and their parents joined staff and guests for the 2016 Leavers' Ceremony. Part traditional prize-giving and part celebration, this is an evening with a special NHEHS flavour.

Our guest and speaker (invited and chosen by the girls themselves) was Debra Searle MVO MBE, inspirational solo Atlantic rower and adventurer. She spoke about how, during her epic row across the Atlantic, she overcame danger, exhaustion and sleep deprivation by making "choosing her attitude" her first task each day. This mantra, she suggested, can be used by us all in everyday life to help us focus on our goals, enhance our performance and extend our possibilities.

Ms Searle presented Leavers' Certificates and prizes and there were speeches from Chair of Governors, Sue Blyth and Ms Hunt as well as a vote of thanks from 2015/16 Head Girl, Grace England. The girls also took the opportunity to present a picture composed of hand written messages to 'fellow-leaver' Ms Hunt with all their best wishes.

The evening finished with a wonderful party and a final chance for girls, their parents and staff to say goodbye. We were sorry to see them go and wish them all the very best of luck in the future. As with all our Leavers we hope they will stay in touch and visit often.

Rebecca Irwin



Thorpe Park

On Friday 1st July, the Year 11s headed off to Thorpe Park. This is now an NHEHS tradition – a day of fun and relaxation provided by the school as a post GCSE examination celebration.

We gathered with the girls at the entrance to the park, gave them some instructions about the day and immediately they were off. Some groups had planned their schedule in advance to ensure they got on the most rides possible, while others were content to wander the park and see what took their fancy. A favourite was 'The Swarm' where riders experience speeds of up to 59 miles per hour and 4.5 times the force of gravity.

After an exciting morning, the girls checked in with us to explain how they had been getting on. Most returned drenched from a combination of the wet weather and even wetter rides but all were in high spirits. When asked about what their plans for lunch were, most seemed to have entirely forgotten about it as they had been so immersed in chasing down each ride; however, that soon changed, although I cannot promise it was the healthiest meal they ever had with a variety of fast food outlets vying for their attention.

At the end of the day, we gathered again to take the return bus to school but not before getting one last year group photo. It has been a real pleasure to look after this year group for the past three years!

Alex Smith

Summer Art Exhibition

Sophie Plowden



After another exciting year in which the art studios seem to have been permanently packed with dedicated students working in free periods, lunch breaks and after school, the Art Department were delighted to welcome parents, student and guests to the NHEHS Summer Exhibition.

The exhibition provides the chance to showcase both exam and course work produced by our GCSE and sixth form Art students.

As well as being able to view exam pieces on the themes of *Past, Present and/or Future* at GCSE, *Transformation* at AS and *Truth, Fantasy or Fiction* at A2 visitors were able to look at the sketch books which record each girl's artistic inspiration and journey as she progresses through the course.

The abundance of ideas, skill and creativity on show was breath-taking.

London Youth Games

Annette Greenslade and Rob Bent

Congratulations to all the NHEHS girls who have gone on to represent the borough of Ealing in the London Youth Games this summer. So far we have news of our hockey players who helped the Ealing team to 9th place out of 33 teams (well done Amrita Arneja, Jojo Loxton, Kira Nygren, Issey Blackwell and Kitty King). In the pool Rosie Bettis (Year 12) was part of the fabulous Ealing team that took gold in the U19 waterpolo competition by winning all three of their games.

30,000 Visitors to the Junior School

Dave Barrett



Playtime in the junior school was disrupted one afternoon in late June when a swarm of honey bees took up residence in a tree in the playground. Despite the heavy rain they were still there the next morning and an expert was called in to remove them. The bees will spend 3-6 weeks in quarantine before being found a new home.

Maths Trail

Helen Critcher



The Maths Department welcomed girls from Year 5 and Year 6 to the Senior School for a series of mathematical challenges. In two separate sessions – one run for Year 5 girls and one for Year 6, problems were set and solved with the visitors being hosted by girls from Year 7. They helped them to follow a trail of questions around the school in a mathematical quiz in which they had to find the answers to questions such as who was the Head Girl 10 years ago? how old is the Science block? or estimate the height of the bike shelter.

Sports Day

The Sports Department organised a great day of athletics for the whole school. There was a full programme of track and field events with girls competing in House teams in high jump, long jump, triple jump, discus, javelin and shot as well as races over hurdles, 100m, 200m, 300m, 800m and 1500m and four-by-four 100m relays.

The sixth form expertly co-ordinated popular traditional games at lunchtime including the ever popular tug-of-war. Staff teams also took on the fastest relay teams and put together a team to take on the sixth form in the tug of war,



Sports Day



Mellow Farm

Annika Malhotra and Sabah Suterwalla



On Friday 10th June, Year 7 made a trip to Mellow Farm where we learned many geographical skills, from slope measuring to analysing a meander and from drawing a field sketch to learning a lot about farming as a “primary industry” and how it works. We all enjoyed putting into practice the skills that we had learnt in class. Throughout the day we also had lots of fun in the outdoors and we are very grateful to the farmer Mr Hadfield for letting us come to his amazing and lovely farm.

When we arrived at the farm, Mr Hadfield led us in to the farmhouse which dated back to 1556. He was going to talk to us about the history of his farm, how

it had evolved and what it may be like in the future. Mr Hadfield explained how he only used to produce dairy products; however he now owns pigs, cattle and sheep to produce meat. He also talked to us about the future of Mellow Farm. It was about how mechanisation may take over the farm. He gave us an example of a drone that could scan the fields and then take out the weeds.

We saw a variety of animals at the farm including cattle, chickens, sheep and pigs. The animals were extremely friendly and cute. The cattle produce milk and beef, the chickens provide eggs and chicken meat, while the pigs and the sheep are kept for meat. All the animals were very

well looked after had lots of space to roam around in.

After lunch we walked through the fields to get to the river meander. We all sat down and discussed the formation of the meander. We also saw a river cliff where erosion had occurred. On our sheets (put together by the teachers) we drew a field sketch which we used later on in class. Once we were all finished we trudged up the hill to start our slope measuring. We used home-made clinometers and calculated averages for each part of the hill. We had lots of fun doing all of this and again we are very grateful to Mr Hadfield for letting experience his farm.

Year 11 Work Experience

Christine Maynard



After a long period of public examinations in May and June, it was a delight to see the Year 11 girls embark on their work experience week from with enthusiasm and commitment.

These placements were organised by the girls and their parents, calling on the support of friends and families, but also several girls took the opportunity to approach their primary schools and offered their services there. These latter placements proved to be highly enjoyable on so many levels for the girls.

The school contacted all the placements during the week to check on the progress of students, and 'to a girl' all the host employers spoke highly of their charges:

'Amazing'

'We would hire her'

Equally exciting were the

opportunities offered to the girls. Several students travelled the country observing different types of work such as surveying, legal work and planning. Others gained real insights into particular professions like veterinary work, construction, retailing, advertising and marketing. It was also wonderful to see a range of placements within and associated with the NHS, extending from medical centres to hospitals to pharmacies.

The School is very grateful to all parents and placement contacts for their support of this programme. Work experience, work shadowing and networking are vitally important in securing employment opportunities in the future, and the NHEHS Work Experience Programme has hopefully helped girls to understand and value this approach. These placements will have provided a starting point for girls to build up an understanding of the 'world of work' and hopefully have helped shape their ideas on how they want to proceed with their career plans.



GDST Cricket

On Friday 1st of July, a NHEHS team drawn from Years 7, 8 and 9 joined 14 schools from across the GDST network at Hampstead Cricket Club for the first ever GDST Cricket Rally.

Despite the grey skies and spitting rain, everyone remained optimistic about the day of cricket ahead.

The 14 teams played four matches each, adding up their runs for their cumulative score. Each team approached the day with huge enthusiasm and played some brilliant cricket. Between matches the girls were lucky enough to be coached by special guests, Chander Kaul (former Indian International and Middlesex cricketer) and Piya Yadav (Middlesex support coach).

When the results of the matches were in, it was Notting Hill and Ealing against Shrewsbury High in the final, with Norwich and Streatham & Clapham in the third place play-off.

After a nail biting final, Shrewsbury High beat us by just seven runs! Both teams hit over two hundred runs, with great bowling on display as well as an impressive diving catch to round it all off. The enthusiasm of the girls was amazing, with players of all abilities competing together to create a really enjoyable day. It was lovely to see everybody taking part and cheering on their team whether they were winning or losing.

Nic Evans



Trust Tennis Rally

On 29th June, the Year 9 tennis squad travelled to Queenswood School in Hertfordshire to take part in the GDST Tennis Rally.

The standard of play was predictably high, with each team providing three pairs who had to play in strict order of their LTA rating. The NHEHS team consisted of Tara Bains, Cassie Thompson, Grace Fee, Martha Ellis, Jenny Read, Caitlin Grosvenor and Alex Michelmor.

Winning a game proved tricky in the first round as the opposition demonstrated good serving and solid ground strokes. However, the NHEHS team were determined to enjoy their day at such a superb venue, and rose to the challenge of improving their performance over the next two rounds and then in the Plate knockout event.

Martha and Grace were our top scorers for the tournament, and the team came away vowing to improve their serves and tactical play for next year.

Well done to everyone.

Jennie Scott

Pi Club

Helen Critcher



Our 'fab four' Year 7 students who have been hugely enthusiastic members of Pi Club this term, together with some of the items they have made.

Sixth Form News

Rebecca Irwin



After examinations, the focus for Year 12 shifts firmly towards the future with UCAS Day. This provided sessions on how to impress on paper and what to include in a Personal Statement as well as more information on next steps, interviews and the support which they can continue to access in school. With first drafts of their

Personal Statements completed the girls then begin individual meetings with their chosen Personal Statement Mentor.

In complete contrast, later the same week the girls were able to enjoy a moment of entire relaxation with the now infamous 'pyjama day' complete with lunchtime movie screening.

Sixth Form Induction Programme

Jenny Bushell



On Wednesday 29th June Year 11 set off to Blacklands Farm for the first day of the Sixth Form Induction Programme.

After finding out their tutor groups and registering with their new tutors the groups set off to complete a variety of team-building activities together. Bouldering (moving sideways on a climbing wall) and bungee trampolining (which enabled us to turn complete somersaults with ease) were great fun, and the groups bonded while completing the low ropes course and the 'crates' challenge, which

involved working in pairs to try to balance on top of a stack of plastic boxes. Miss Morgan and Ms Bushell had a go, and were very excited to reach the dizzy heights of 14 crates before falling off to be expertly caught by the team of Year 11 belayers.

We ended the day with a fun selection of activities including 'Nightwire' – a blindfolded trip around a woodland obstacle course, and a spider's web which the entire tutor group had to work together to pass through. Thank you to Mrs Hobbs for organising the day, and to the rest of the

tutor team Dr Sheldon, Dr Quincey-Jones, Miss Davies and Miss Morgan.

Thursday 30th June saw the girls back in school for their first taste of sixth form life. Free periods were met with great enthusiasm, as were the introductory lessons in each subject. After a tasty lunch in the sixth form café we heard about the Engineering Education Scheme, Big Sister Programme, sixth form duties, and other exciting new opportunities. We're looking forward to welcoming back our new Year 12s in September!

Engineering at the University of Bath

Eleanor Brown



On July 6th, Miss Croft, Mr Schneider, fellow-sixthformer Ammaarah Felix and I visited the University of Bath to take part in their Engineering Taster Day designed to encourage women to apply for STEM courses at university.

Ammaarah and I split up in the morning, with Ammaarah going to the architectural and civil engineering session, whereas I went to hear more about electrical and electronic engineering. My session began with a short talk from a PhD student about his investigation into electronic motors for aviation using superconductors. This was followed by short demonstrations of superconductors floating on a

track of magnets and wirelessly transmitting electricity between two coils.

The architectural and civil engineering session began with a lecture on the breadth of civil engineering, as well as what it would be like to study it at the university. Students were then tasked with a group activity, which consisted of building a tensegrity structure. This proved incredibly difficult as the final structure was over three metres tall!

We then met up for lunch and explored the university. After this, we both set off to the mechanical engineering session, where we heard a lecture on the role of design in engineering.

Once again there was a practical task; this time to design a board game based on a set story, which in our case was Peter Rabbit.

Stemming from a classic board game, our idea was a board and dice game but with the board shaped like a spiral. Landing on each square prompted a different activity, such as singing your favourite nursery rhyme. The board was also meant to have moving parts and a built in speaker which made a plethora of noises, including happy music when Peter eventually returned to Mummy Rabbit and won the game.

We were up against some tough competition from the other teams but we came out triumphant and won the competition. Although this session was not what we expected from the title, it was interesting to discover how many types of engineers have to come together to create a product.

The day was a fantastic insight into STEM careers and STEM at university, as well as a great introduction the University of Bath, so we would like to thank our hosts at the university as well as Miss Croft and Mr Schneider for organising such a brilliant day.

GDST Rounders Competition

Grace Pang



The Year 9 and 10 rounders team joined the Year 9 tennis team and together we set off on a trip to Queenswood School to play against other GDST schools.

Our first impression of the school was that it was huge with over 20 tennis courts and a large green field (about 20 acres) which was next to what looked like a forest!

At first the weather was extremely cold and eventually became quite rainy. Before our first match we left our bags on top of a muddy hill and the Year 9's speculated about what fun it would be to roll down it.

We started our first match and by the end of the morning had played many brilliant schools,

but unfortunately we lost all our matches.

At lunch time we headed inside due to the rain, and tried to warm up. We finished our lunch and entertained ourselves for a while. The Year 10's got into a circle and sang a variety of songs (Taylor Swift, Ariana Grande). We were then told that the field was too wet to safely play on any more, so turned our attention to the Mars bars in the vending machine.

Before we left we took photos of the whole group – rounders and tennis players. I'm sure everybody would like to thank the PE teachers for organising this wonderful trip and Miss Lowen and Mrs Scott who accompanied us.



Junior Maths Challenge

In May, all of Year 7 and more than half of Year 8 took part in the Junior Maths Challenge a national competition organised by the UK Maths Trust. They did extremely well, achieving a record breaking total of 90 certificates (15 more than last year!).

Overall they were awarded:

12 gold, 39 silver and 39 bronze certificates.

The gold certificate winners were:

Diana Razlog (Best in School and Best in Year 8)

Sophie Claxton (Best in Year 7)

Maryam Khan

Rhyllie-Jayne Clack

Iris Feliks

Jessica Low

Chloe Bragança Vasconcelos

Olivia Dickens

Zareen Hyatt

Prathaayini Sothinathan

Inaya Gharatya

Eleanor Ritchie

A special mention goes to Diana Razlog for being the Best in School for the second year running. This year her high score means she has qualified for the Junior Maths Olympiad. Also as a result of scoring highly, Maryam, Sophie, Prathaayini and Inaya all qualified for the Junior Kangaroo.

Well done to all of the students for taking part in with such enthusiasm. They should feel pleased with what they have achieved.

Helen Critcher



Junior School Assembly

Ms Hunt was Guest of Honour at a special Junior School assembly held to wish her farewell and good luck. There was some beautiful singing as well as two impressive science experiments. Ms Hunt was presented with a photo of herself taken with the Junior School Council and a collection of framed portraits which had been drawn by girls from Reception to Year 6.



Room Decorating

A room decorating competition on the theme of "the essence of Notting Hill" was held as part of the way the girls said goodbye to Ms Hunt. It featured humour, teamwork and the NHEHS love of a quirky tradition. The winners were 9EL for their farewell song – written and performed by girls in the form.

House Competition



The summer term is always a thrilling term for House Competitions with big events, which can have a big impact on final scores, held right at the end of term.

A new event this year was a Lower School House Maths competition with Eliot winning for Year 7 and Nightingale holding off stiff competition to win for Year 8.

The summer House tennis and rounders fixtures were hotly contested. Hepburn scooped first place in the Year 9 House rounders with Eliot in second and Nightingale in third. Positions were then neatly reversed in the Year 7 House tennis with Nightingale taking first place.

A year's worth of academic

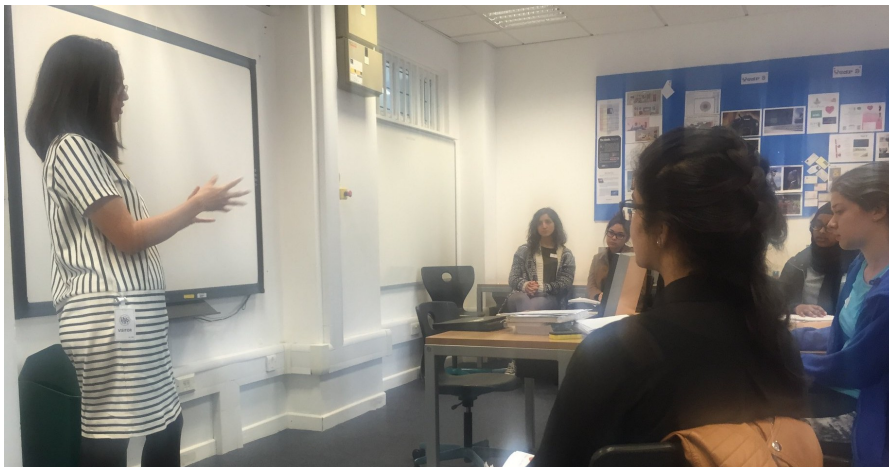
successes can also contribute mightily to final House victory. Distinctions given in the Lower School for outstanding work also earn House points. The winners on this score were 7E whose 278 distinctions contributed a whopping 2780 House points in total for Eliot.

And so to Sports Day, where every girl who took part contributed to the overall score for their House. Nightingale were the winners here with Hepburn in second place and Eliot in third.

The final House scores went into the tens of thousands but when everything was added up the House with the most amount of points for this academic year (and the third consecutive year) is... Eliot!

MedSoc Meeting

Philip Sheldon



Dr Eimi Howse (NHEHS 2004) is at a very different point in her career. She is a trainee GP who has been gaining experience in a variety of junior doctor placements. She spoke about graduate entry onto a medical degree course. The remainder of the evening was made up of taster sessions on medical ethics, problem based learning and preparation for the UKCAT entrance test.

Medical and Dental schools now require all their candidates to take an entrance test, either UKCAT or BMAT, for which extensive preparation is essential. The final hurdle is the interview process. Some departments use traditional panel interviews, but increasingly common are Multiple Mini Interviews which are akin to speed dating. The candidate has around 8 interviews on various themes, each about 5-minutes long with an individual interviewer and each interview is independently scored.

We hope, next term, to be able to put on more sessions for our medics, dentists and vets. If there is anyone out there in any of these professions who would like to help, I would love to hear from you.

p.sheldon@nhehs.gdst.net

Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Sciences are some of the most difficult university courses to get onto and there are many hurdles for applicants to clear. Real knowledge of the nature of the career and commitment are absolutely essential. There is little point in completing at least 5 hard-working years of specialised vocational training, only to decide that this is not what you want to do. Finally, all this commitment, along with academic curiosity, knowledge of one's preferred learning style, and the ability to cope with a high workload and stress need to be perfectly expressed in a Personal Statement of about 600 words which is the starting point of your application.

As a school, we help students decide whether these are courses for them, and to prepare for their applications. As part of this process we hosted a session after school on 22nd June and also invited students from local schools who like us are members of the Ealing

Independent State Schools Partnership (EISSP). Over 30 students attended, from Ellen Wilkinson, Ealing Green College and Twyford C of E High as well as from NHEHS. Advantages of a large group of like minded applicants from different schools include making it more worthwhile for visiting experts and speakers to give up their time. In addition, students from different backgrounds can meet and support each other. For example, potential vets are very rare indeed in a city school such as ours, so it is a particular advantage that this year there are 4 from participating schools to support each other and exchange experiences and ideas.

At this session we were fortunate to have two NHEHS Old Girls return to school to speak. Dr Nirupa Murugaesu (NHEHS 1995) is medically qualified but now is engaged in research on cancer genomics. She spoke about the importance of genetic diversity in tumours and its importance in discovering improved treatments.