



China 2013

Tracy Cheng

40 girls from Year 10 and 11 who are studying GCSE Chinese spent an exciting 10 days in China at half term. Visits included many of Beijing's well-known cultural sites including the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, Tiananmen Square and the Temple of Heaven as well as a trip to the Olympic Park. We also explored Beijing's *hutong*, the narrow alleys that wind through the old city, had tea at a traditional Tea House and there were plenty of opportunities for the girls to practise their Mandarin in restaurants, local supermarkets, the famous Wangfujing street market, handicraft factories and the silk market. We spent a day at the Great Wall, saw the pandas at the zoo and evening highlights included a traditional Chinese acrobatic show and the ever-entertaining Kung Fu Panda Show.

We enjoyed a morning in the central business district where a NHEHS parent had kindly arranged for us to visit Beijing's World Trade Centre and where staff organised a very interesting seminar for us.

On another day we were guests of the 80th Beijing High School who were fabulous hosts and made us extremely welcome. This is the second time this school has welcomed a group from NHEHS and as well as being shown round the school by students, our girls attended some lessons and specially organised classes in Chinese Opera and Tai Chi. Best of all we were able to join in activities with students and teachers, chat and get to know our hosts.

On day five we took the overnight train to Xian, one of the oldest cities in China, the eastern terminus of the Silk Road and the home of the Terracotta Army. For many of the girls the highlight in Xian was the chance to cycle along the old city wall where 14 km of bike paths provide fantastic views of the whole city.

We packed so much into our stay and enjoyed ourselves immensely. The girls were wonderful travelling companions as were Ms Cohen, Ms Maynard, Ms Esler and Ms Luo who shared the trip with us.

Guys and Dolls

Rhiannon Miller



Without Ms Whitmarsh, Ms Craggs, Ms Keen, Mr Jeanes and our amazing stage manager Shayna Lewis, it really wouldn't have been possible and from all the cast and crew 'thank you!'

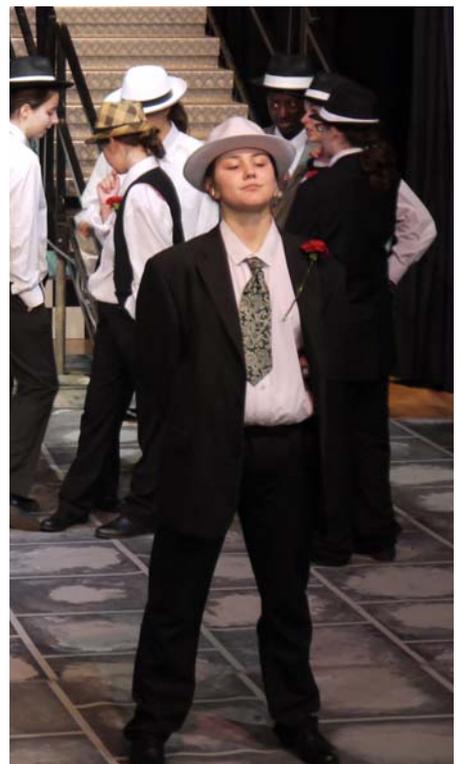
Applause and curtain calls aside, it was the community spirit throughout rehearsals, preparations and performances that united these guys and dolls in a show that we're sure will go down in Notting Hill history.

This year Notting Hill decided to take on the musical extravaganza that is *Guys and Dolls* and it was the perfect option for our senior production in our stunning new facilities.

Perhaps the most obvious challenge for this production was that all the guys would be played by dolls. That being said, we started rehearsals at the beginning of term and all settled in to this New York Broadway tale, which will surely now be close to our hearts for ever. We had so much fun putting together the dance numbers, rehearsing the group scenes (such as the "not to be mentioned" Havana) and learning the songs. The process came with a fair amount of stress! However, the stress

undoubtedly allowed the show to become what it became, a buzzing and spectacular Production. We all enjoyed ourselves so much and were so proud of the final result!

Playing Sarah Brown really was a dream come true for me and it will be an enduring memory of my 12 years at Notting Hill. I ought to say that I would never have found myself quite so comfortably in her shoes if it were not for the generous loan of authentic uniforms from the Hanwell Salvation Army.



Guys and Dolls



We are extremely grateful to Mrs Cynthia Alleeson from the Salvation Army in West Ealing for her advice and for lending us the fantastic mission band costumes, banners and props.

The retiring collection taken after each show raised a total of £665 which we are donating to the Ealing Salvation Army's Christmas Day appeal which will

go towards providing Christmas lunch for those in need or living alone in the Ealing area.

The school has received a card from the Salvation Army thanking all parents, students, staff and audience members who contributed to the collection.



Painting Broadway!



Some of the props team



Musicians get to grips with the score





Autumn Concert

The Music Department were delighted to be able to give their first concert of the year in the new hall and the ambience created by being in the same area for the concert itself and the pre-concert reception added to the enjoyable atmosphere.

Amelia Wang, violin, opened the concert with a lively performance of Bartók's *6 Romanian Dances*, this was followed by a serene performance Saint-Saëns's *Ave Maria* given by the Chamber Choir.

A number of girls gave solo performances all to a very high standard with some that stood out as being exceptional. Maya Caskie played Weber's *Minuet and Trio* with great understanding and Scarlet Regan, Debussy's *Arabesque No 1* with great dexterity. Connie Blach gave a mature performance of the second movement of Brahms *Sonata Op 38* which also gave Mr Jeanes an impressive piano part! This was also the case with Erin Holder's outstanding performance of the first movement of Beethoven's *Spring Sonata* which she performed with real understanding. We were delighted to welcome a newcomer to the school, a Sixth Form Music Scholar, Marie Claire de Voil, who gave a lovely performance of Purcell's beautiful song *Music for a While*.

The evening finished with a performance of two movements from Mozart's *Divertimento No 2* – a tricky work which the Chamber Orchestra played with aplomb.

Caroline Watts

Top of the Bench

Philip Sheldon



Do you know where in the house you could find sodium carbonate, or which element has the symbol 'W'? These are the sort of questions that might come up in a Top of the Bench chemistry competition - a national quiz based on general knowledge of Chemistry and organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Late in November four brave individuals drawn from Years 9, 10 and 11 swotted up on elements, acids and bases, and the structures of molecules and then set off to St Benedict's for the competition.

Before the event got underway we were treated to a pizza and chips and as we munched away,

the girls enthusiastically tried to extract every last remnant of Chemistry trivia held in my small head. When the last of these factoids (the most abundant element in the universe being hydrogen) actually came up in the quiz, it gave me special pleasure.

Our team, Julia Flint (Year 9), Eve Harrington (Year 9), Ammaarah Felix (Year 10) and Eliza Argyropoulos (Year 11) scored a fantastic 81 points. This put them in 3rd place out of the 21 teams, just 3 points behind the winners, Highgate School, and ahead of the local competition including St Benedict's, St Augustine's, Latymer Upper, Harrow, and Westminster.

London Schools Symphony Orchestra

Many congratulations to Connie Blach who has been selected for the London Schools Symphony Orchestra. The LSSO presents three Barbican concerts every year in January, April and September.

Year 11 Celebrate

Richard Petty



Having worked so hard and faced their GCSE mock exams with such calmness and focus, Year 11 girls rounded off the term in style with a 'Sing-along Sound of Music party'. They gathered in the new hall where they were joined by the Head Girls, House Captains and the Year 11 tutor team. There were



some vigorous renditions of Do-Re-Mi, some collective swooning during the wedding

scene, lashings of pop and confectionery and a fun time was had by all!

A huge thank you to Premises Manager, Dave Barrett, and his team, for enabling us to host such a venture.

The occasion also served as a useful warm-up for the following morning's Year 11 efforts with 'Five Gold Rings', the 'centrepiece' of the NHEHS Christmas assembly. (Ask your daughter to explain if you aren't familiar with this piece of NHEHS Christmas tradition). This unbiased observer thought their efforts were the best yet and they can be seen here in all their 'be-tinselled' glory.

Year 13 at London Print Studio

Sophie Plowden

At the end of November, Year 13 art students attended a whistle-stop workshop at the London Print Studio, where in a single day they learnt the rudiments of the ancient technique of etching.

They learnt how to draw through wax onto a zinc plate and etch it in an acid bath, as well as how to create washes of tone with resin dust and to



print their plates on a magnificent star wheel press.

Staff at the print studio were

astonished at the high quality of work that our students managed to accomplish in such a short period of time.

Christmas Room Decorating Competition

Sarah Davies



The theme this year (to tie in with the 50th anniversary of Doctor Who!) “Christmas in Space and Time”, and as usual our girls to came up with the weird, the wild and the wonderful!



“Hold tight and pretend it’s a plan!” With the immortal words of The Doctor ringing in our ears Mr Walker, Mr Nelkin, Mrs Raraty and myself prepared to launch ourselves into the arduous (and fattening!) task of judging this year’s Room Decorating Competition. Yet again we were blown away by the sheer inventiveness, creativity and straightforward bribery on show.

Judging kicked off with the hotly anticipated visit to the Sixth Form Centre – where the girls had done themselves proud re-creating a voyage on the Starship Sixth Form, complete with aliens, star sweets (Mars Bar or Milky Way, anyone?) and a beautifully rendered Wall-e postbox. Top work!

Our journey through space and time (and plenty of tinfoil!) began in earnest, and every

room we saw seemed to have something to enchant or amuse: highlights this year were 9SL’s Christmas in the Year 3000, with real fish; the very clever (and literal!) take on the theme by 10LO; the amazing and delicious-looking cake that was the centre piece of 8Es “To the Moon and Back”, seeing Mr Kerrison as a chained up Santa in 9AK’s rather dystopian vision and the sheer number of fabulous postboxes on show. It was hard to make any decisions (or perhaps the mince pies and brownies proffered as clear bribes were beginning to take their toll on our judgely huddle) so coming up with a definitive winning order was tough to say the least.

In the end, it was decided that third place went to 7N’s “Christmas in the 1960s” – really clever and thoughtful, coupled with beautifully choreographed routines to the strains of

“Hairspray”. Incidentally, the standard among Year 7 overall gets higher and higher every year! Second was 8H with their “Merry Clockmas” room – it was inventive and original, with the whole form working seamlessly (like clockwork, perhaps?) together to create something with real impact. And then – first prize went to 9LE’s beautiful “Frozen in Time” room. It was truly breath-taking and magical – the whole room resembled a snow globe. Vacuuming that carpet would have taken an age!

As ever, all forms really rose to the occasion. Final House scores: 1st Hepburn, 2nd Eliot and 3rd Nightingale. Congratulations to everyone and a special thanks to all the tutors who as ever helped make this madcap and magical tradition at NHEHS such a success.





Christmas Room Decorating Competition





Big Sisters

Girls in Year 12 can volunteer to act as a Big Sister to a girl in Year 7. Big sisters provide practical help and advice on negotiating the first few weeks at a new school, acting as a friendly face and guide. They enjoy and benefit from the relationship as much as the younger girls who are learning from a friend and mentor with first hand experience of day-to-day school life. And of course, the younger girls look forward to the day when they too will be able to pass on their experiences.



Year 7 have enjoyed meeting up with their Big Sisters this term, particularly in December when the their Big Sisters presented them with a 'Christmas wish' in the form of a chocolate coin. The girls spilled out into the Portrait Room and the new atrium areas and enjoyed chatting, getting to know each other and imparting and receiving useful advice on life at Notting Hill. There was a wonderfully warm buzz to the school that morning.

Kitty Scales

Duke of Edinburgh Awards Ceremony

Paul Quarmby

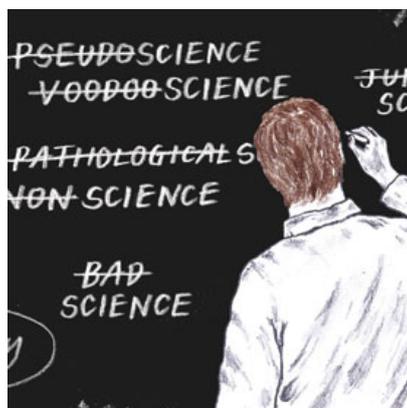


130 girls from NHEHS girls have collected their Bronze, Silver or Gold awards this term. Pictured here at the Ealing Duke of Edinburgh award presentation held in November at Greenford Town Hall are :

Samantha Shanthakumar, Diviya Davabalan-Thevarajah, Jess Shindler-Glass, Zainah Muddassir and Ella Buckroyd with the Mayor of Ealing, Councillor Kamaljit Dhindsa.

Science and Pseudoscience

Charlotte Buckley



Year 12 Psychology students spent a day at a conference in London designed to explore the boundaries between science and pseudoscience.

Science is a key discipline which runs through everything we study at A-level. The lectures looked at examples of 'bad science' (where science goes wrong) and considered how we collect empirical evidence. Non-scientific studies and beliefs were quashed, and we discovered that some things which may be considered very pseudoscientific (like hypnosis and magic) may actually not be all that mysterious after all.

Bowling!

Kitty Scales

Year 7 have settled so well into school life and they and the girls in Year 8 have worked very hard this term, so we thought they deserved a Christmas treat- bowling!

We went after school on two successive evenings, and the girls and I were joined by the tutor teams at Acton Ten Pin Bowl. We took over about 10 lanes, and all enjoyed a couple of games of enthusiastic bowling, strikes were celebrated and some intriguing bowling styles were showcased! Thanks to Miss Genge and Miss Webb for organising these fun trips.

Year 7 Bowling Trip

Aemaan Khan

On Monday 9th December 2013, all 90 pupils in Year 7 headed to Acton Tenpin Bowling Alley.

On the way there all pupils were exuberant and could not wait to get started. When they arrived at their destination, Year 7 got into their teams of 6 and started their competitive battle. Nearly all the lanes were booked for us and we could really show off our bowling skills.

Throughout the game there were 'a few' breaks with slushies, chips and many more delectable foods, even the teachers sneaked a bite! There were many strikes, spares, slips and trips that cannot be forgotten. Every minute of those



Year 8 girls enjoying their evening at Acton Ten Pin Bowl

memorable two hours were so entertaining. The teachers also had a game and Miss Genge came around and shared her bowling tips.

This trip was a chance to make new friends and to get to know our classmates better and it accomplished the goal. Nobody has stopped talking about it since and Year 7 now feel they know

their classmates much better and have made many new friends. It was a memorable trip and many people wish that they could do it again.

Thanks to Ms Scales, Mrs Heppenstall, Miss Romero and especially Miss Genge (who organized the Year 7 trip) for giving us such an amazing experience.

Art Prize

Sophie Plowden

Many congratulations to Priscilla Yu in Year 9, who came second out of over 70 entrants in the 'Mother & Child' art competition at the Royal Society of Obstetricians. Her interpretation of the theme gained her praise from the judges: she depicted a tiny plant supported by huge and complex roots of a tree.

Debating

Joe Pepper



Another great half term for Debating at NHEHS!

Highlights included Ella Kotecha and Serena Lit's participation in the English Speaking Union Mace Debate. They had to brush up

their knowledge on football for a tough debate on violent players in the game, during which they convinced many in the audience that the violent acts of footballers should be forgiven due to the 'heat of the moment'.

Elsewhere, six girls in Year 12 attended the Cambridge Union Debate in December (Leila Sharafi, Resham Khan, Trishnaah Selvajothe, Annabelle Minkova, Holly Hesketh and Monisha Gohil). They had to persuade the judges that housewives, and househusbands, deserved a salary from the government. The judges

from the Cambridge Union were impressed by the confidence and eloquence of the NHEHS girls.

At the MUN Conference at the London Oratory, eleven girls in Years 12 and 13 represented Morocco and India, debating world issues such as human rights and terrorism. Antonia Matthias was awarded the prize of Highly Commended Delegate – another certificate to add to her growing collection!

We are planning a number of events in the New Year, so watch this space ...

Year 10 Maths Lectures

Helen Critcher



In early December the whole of Year 10 were treated to a day of Maths lectures at the Institute of Education.

One of the highlights of the day was the lecture by Dr James Grime from Cambridge University *The Secret World of Code Breaking* and his energetic demonstration of

how an enigma machine works. He described the importance of considering the frequency of different letters in the English language and our own Rae O'Sullivan was invited onto the stage to conduct a conversation without using the letter 'e', with some help from her friends in the audience.



We all enjoyed Simon Singh's talk *The Simpsons and Their Mathematical Secrets* and many students eagerly purchased signed copies of the book – definitely a good read and we have it in the school library if you missed out. In other sessions there were lateral thinking puzzles posed by Paul Sloane while Dr Emma McCoy introduced the students to Pascal's triangle and factorials.

We were delighted by the enthusiasm shown by Year 10 and hope they enjoyed the chance to do some Christmas shopping on their way home

Last Post



At 11.00am on Monday, 11 November, Remembrance Day, the two minute silence was observed by the whole school. Girls and staff gathered in the garden or at the windows of the atrium to listen to a simple and moving sounding of the last post played by Emelia Jack, Ellie Williams and Hannah Lefroy.

At NHEHS Remembrance Day fell within 10LO's charity week. They had chosen to raise funds in support of *Help the Heroes* and organised an 'own clothes day' on 11 November. Girls paid £1.00 if they were wearing red or £2.00 for wearing any other colour.

Criminology

Charlotte Buckley

Criminology makes up an important part of the A Level Psychology course in Year 13. Our group of girls joined other sixthformers from around London and the south-east at a conference in central London chaired by one of the country's leading Criminologists Professor David Wilson, Professor of Criminology at Birmingham.

The conference really brought our Forensic Psychology studies to life and highlighted in nearly every single lecture, the contrast with the other social scientific ways of looking at crime and punishment. All the sessions were excellent but the girls particularly enjoyed Noel 'Razor' Smithy the former bank robber talking about why he became a criminal, and Professor Donal MacIntyre's presentation of his work on the English riots in Manchester and why they spread so quickly.



Senior Maths Challenge

On Thursday 7th November, an inspiring group of Sixth Form students stayed after school to take part in the Senior Maths Challenge. This is a national competition which is organised by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust.

A gold certificate was awarded to Ellen Coleman who also earned certificates for 'Best in Year13' and 'Best in School'

Silver certificates went to Lauren Chippendale, Trishnaah Selvajothy and Joanna Vale. Trishnaah and Joanna were also joint winners of 'Best in Year 12'. Louisa Hamre, Mariam Ghobrial, Anna Jacob, Julia Carleton, Leila Sharafi and Nimrah Younus were awarded bronze certificates.

Well done to all of the students who took part and special congratulations to Ellen Coleman who has always been the 'Best in her Year' in these maths challenges.

Helen Critcher

Safe, Fun and Connected

Sarah Davies



The week of 18th to 22nd November 2013 was National Anti-Bullying Week and schools and colleges around the UK were involved in sending a clear and positive message that bullying is neither acceptable nor inevitable in our schools and communities.

This year's theme was 'The Future is Ours – Safe, Fun and

Connected,' and children and young people were called on to take the lead in creating a future without bullying, using new technologies to promote positive communication rather than being held back by cyberbullying.

There were many opportunities during the week for staff and students to explore these themes together. Year 12 led a vertical group session to update the school's e-safety and anti-bullying charters (their final version will be published to all next term).

Individuals signed a "Beat Bullying Pledge" for display around the school, and many chose to wear (for a small donation to the Beat Bullying charity, and for one week only!) a "Beat Bullying" wristband. Students also took part in an online survey about bullying the results of which will be explored in a future assembly.

It was a busy and worthwhile week with lots of ideas to take away so that we can make sure that being connected is safe and fun.

May Morris – a Talented Notting Hill Girl

Elizabeth Broekman



Fans of the artist, writer and socialist William Morris who have visited the William Morris Gallery in Walthamstow may have noticed a reference to his daughters Jane and May in one of the displays. In the section on Morris's family life, the girls are mentioned as having been educated first at home, and then

at Notting Hill High School.

May Morris came to Notting Hill in September 1874, at the same time as her great friend Margaret Burne-Jones, the daughter of the artist Edward Burne-Jones. She left in 1877 when she was 15 years old.

Jane was at the school from 1875 to 1877.

May was a gifted needlewoman and created some incredible pieces of embroidery, many of which were exhibited. Her passion for embroidery and her exceptional creativity were instrumental in transforming the image of embroidery from a domestic pastime into an accepted art form.

In 1885, when May was only 23 years old, she was appointed as head of the embroidery department at her father's emporium Morris & Co, a position she held for five years.

Latin Set Text Day

Mary Sheard

The Year 13 Latin class gathered at Conway Hall in Central London for a series of talks on our two A-Level set texts : extracts from Tacitus' *Annales* describing Nero and the Great Fire of Rome, and Book 4 of the *Aeneid* containing the famous love story between Dido and Aeneas.

There were four talks throughout the day given by well-known speakers from Oxford University and Kings College London, and topics covered both the context and detail of each text. One such talk explored the theatricality of Nero's Rome, covering areas as wide as Nero's own wish to take to the stage and perform and a detailed explanation of the somewhat gruesome suicides of figures such as Seneca. The final talk explored the text of the *Aeneid* itself, drawing some interesting comparisons with other Roman authors such as Catullus and creating a surprising, but well-received, feminist depiction of Dido.

France in Revolution

Kitty Scales



Year 12 Historians and Art Historians enjoyed a visit to the Wallace Collection, and in particular the unsurpassed displays of French 18th Century painting, furniture and porcelain and a world class armoury.

This visit complemented the girls' study of their History AS module

'France in Revolution 1774-1815', and their History of Art module which looks at French painting from 1780 to 1870.

In a session entitled *Liberty, Fraternity, Equality! The causes of the French Revolution*, the girls began by entering a house filled with the treasures of pre-revolutionary France, discovering at first hand the luxurious lifestyle of those that could afford it, including the French Royal family. They went on to link this to the causes of the revolution, and aspects of revolutionary France including the revolutionary calendar and the scientific rationale behind the invention of the guillotine.



Pictured: Natasha Sharma, Naomi Lefroy, Rosie Glenn and Eve Harrington

Linguists of the Term

The Modern Foreign Language Department has introduced a termly award for each language (Chinese, French, German and Spanish) which will go to the pupil judged to have shown the greatest commitment to, and enthusiasm for, a particular language. Certificates this term go to:

KS3 (Years 7, 8 and 9)

Chinese- Eve Harrington; German- Cecily Bell; Spanish- Mathilde Roca; French- Rosie Glenn

KS4 (Years 10 and 11)

Chinese- Hannah Lefroy; German- Anmol Sagoo; Spanish- Catriona Barnard; French- Natasha Sharma

Kathleen Webb



Senior Team Maths Challenge

On 14th November I took a team of four sixth form students to the west London heat of the Senior Team Maths Challenge.

This competition is organised by the Further Maths Support Programme in partnership with the UK Mathematics Trust and this year contained some very challenging questions which the team enjoyed tackling.

Helen Critcher



Alchemists' Club.

In Chemistry Week (16-23 November), two groups of girls took part in the Royal Society of Chemistry Global Experiment 2013. This involved joining teams in the UK and around the world in measuring the amount of vitamin C in various fruits and vegetables using simple apparatus. When all the data is in we'll be able to see the effect of cooking, aging and location (where the produce was grown) on vitamin C levels.

After a planning session during the previous week, the girls worked really hard to complete the experiment during lunchtime and their results were then put on the RSC Global Experiment data base. The girls received a certificate commemorating their participation and a photograph of some of them engaged in the experiment will feature on the front cover of the January edition of RSC News, which goes out to the RSC's 57,000 members all over the world.

Andy Crame

Science Club

Andy Crame



This half term, science club has been exploring several scientific principles using everyday items that might be found in the home. The girls made rockets powered by Alka-Seltzer and managed to put a mark on the ceiling in C2! We then moved the experiment outside to

find which rocket could go highest. After some fierce competition a height of 16 feet was achieved.

The old favourite 'slime' was quite a hit, with the girls learning about polymerisation while making highly coloured 'goo' which they found could move of its own accord. Making hovercraft from a CD, a bottle top and a balloon gave rise to some interesting races along the bench tops and finally, we finished off the term on a festive note by making crystal Christmas trees.

We hope to see more Year 7 girls joining us next term.

Year 9 Hockey Triumph



In the latter part of the term, the Year 9 hockey team played in the London Trophy hockey tournament. They qualified in their group and progressed to the next stage, then beat Streatham and Clapham High School in the semi-finals and then drew in the final against St Benedict's. In an exciting finish they went on to win the tournament in a penalty shoot-out!

The girls who played were: Lara Rowe, Georgia Bentley, Imogen Kurek-Smith, Lily O'Badiah, Maya Dhillon, Nathalie Wicks, Alessia Colato, Alice Wells, Philippa Jones, Cameron Thomas, Amy Turner and Natasha Kettel.

Ante's Inferno – a visit from the author, Griselda Heppel

Alice Pygram



On Friday 15th November we were delighted to welcome the author of *Ante's Inferno*, Griselda Heppel into our school. As you have probably worked out she came to talk about her book and other related ideas on the underworld.

For those of you who don't know, Ante is a Latin girls name coming from Antonio and Inferno means "with fire" so overall the book is about Ante's Hell. Many of you will have heard of Dante's *Inferno*, by the thirteenth century Italian poet. Griselda's title is a play on words as Inferno is Italian for hell.

She began her talk by telling us about the characters and where she got her ideas from, paying particular attention to one of the main characters named Gil,

whose name is a reference to the Roman author, Virgil.

All main characters in the book needed to have died in order to be in the underworld. To give us a real image of what Ante's Inferno might be like we studied a range of images and discussed the idea of purgatory. Purgatory is the place between heaven and hell, a 'waiting room' for all those who long to be accepted into heaven. Moving on from the theme of heaven and hell we looked at different pictures of mythical beasts and thought about how we could defeat them like Ante, our protagonist, did.

Towards the end of her talk Griselda started reading part of the second chapter of her

book. The plot of the story seemed incredible. However as we were running out of time she had to leave us in the middle of a huge cliffhanger. After this she claimed that the only way we could find out what was going to happen was to read the book and having been left in such a great place who wouldn't like to read the whole story!

To conclude, I believe Griselda Heppel is a very exciting writer and I hope you will read her book and that you will enjoy it too



Girls from Years 5 and 6 also enjoyed meeting Griselda Heppel who kindly signed copies of her book and posed for photos

Parents' Guild Fundraising for the Big Build

The school is hugely grateful to the Parents' Guild for their tremendous work in raising a fabulous £75,000 for additional sports facilities and equipment as part of the Big Build Campaign. The final cheque was presented to the school earlier in the term at the AGM of the Parents' Guild.

This is the result of two years' dedicated fundraising and we would specially like to thank those who organised the events that made the fundraising such a success.

Money has already gone toward the purchase of new equipment which is already being used, and much enjoyed, by the girls in PE and sports lessons as well as a range of extra-curricular clubs. Items purchased so far include:

- ★ matchplay basketball goals
- ★ indoor netball posts and goals
- ★ outdoor competition netball posts and protectors
- ★ equipment for indoor hockey including indoor hockey goals
- ★ volley ball posts
- ★ badminton equipment and posts
- ★ 2 trampolines, trampoline throw mats and trampoline spotting platform
- ★ table-tennis table and equipment



- ★ Safety, exercise, agility, judo and gymnastics mats
- ★ Additional gymnastics equipment including vaulting box, vaulting horse, trampette, benches and springboard

More equipment and equipment for summer sports and athletics will be bought later in the year.

Parents' Guild—Autumn Term Update

Charlie Altman

Careers: The Autumn term is always frenetic for the Careers Committee as they prepare for the Careers Convention which this year will take place on February 4th 2014. Many thanks to Simon King-Cline, Patrick Harrington and their team for corralling the 80 parents who have volunteered to give advice on the night.

Social and Fundraising:

The Social and Fund Raising Committee organised numerous events to keep the parents and girls connected and our thanks go to Tracey Newman for her endless energy in heading this committee.

Events this term have included the return of the Christmas Bazaar wonderfully organised by Anita Wong and her team and kindly sponsored by Sinton Andrews. Hundreds of people from the school and the community at large poured through the doors and a stunning £7000 was raised on the day.

Quiz Night was once again a triumph with 150 parents eager to pit their brains against each other in an evening that sells out before the ink has dried on the flyer! Thanks to Selina Chada for organising it.

Christmas: In the run up to Christmas we held another highly successful Christmas Tree Sale run by Cecily Mathias and Sarah England while Louise Milionis and Kim Vrensen organised the popular Christmas wrapping paper sale.



Our thanks also go to Sharmila Antao for the sparkling Bauble Competition, Manisha Agarwal for getting the girls creative with Christmas cards, Maninder Murfin for Bag Sales, Claire Haworth for creating the Junior School calendar and Robin Barry for designing and running 'The Trader'. Finally, thanks to Debbie Williams for running the Junior School's disco at the end of term. Great fun was had by all!

Next event: Our next event is Burns Night which will take place on Saturday 25 January in the Senior School hall – for tickets contact

michellelevman@gmail.com

Anyone who would like to get involved in the Parents' Guild please contact

charlie@altman.org.uk



Pool Life Guards

In the October half-term 16 girls from Year 12 underwent training as pool lifeguards and earned the Royal Life Saving Society's UK National Pool Lifeguard Qualification.



The course includes physical training and theoretical classroom work, followed by a practical in-water and out-of-water assessments on pool rescue, first aid, CPR and lifesaving skills.



All 16 girls are now qualified to serve as pool lifeguards.

Rob Bent



Drama Department News

Debbie Whitmarsh

I can hardly believe that we have been in our new building for a term. The Drama Office has assumed a 'lived in' look and the studio theatre and workshop are constantly buzzing with girls who have quickly adapted to life with so many resources at their fingertips. NHEHS girls are not ones to let the grass grow under their feet and already we have had a huge variety of performances gracing both the studio theatre and the new hall. The girls surpassed themselves for our senior production of *Guys and Dolls* and it was incredible to see the new hall transformed into Broadway for this classic musical.

I have just passed the rehearsal schedule notice that is pinned to the studio theatre door and was amazed and gratified to see every available lunchtime and after school slot is taken. Year 7s want to rehearse their end of term project based on the story of *Where the Wild Things Are*, Year 8s are setting up for a presentation of images from Anne Frank and the Kindertransport, Year 9 are busy staging performances based on their vision of the future inspired by the Alan Brownjohn poem *We're Going to See the Rabbit* and whilst Year 10

grapple with *The Crucible*, Year 12 and 13 are relishing using the new facilities to further develop their skills and talent, both in lessons and through extra-curricular pursuits.

The energy and commitment is a joy to see!



Looking ahead, in January we have the examination performance from our A Level Drama & Theatre Studies students a cutting verbatim piece called *To think this is England*. Dates and times are on the school calendar.

Also in January the new technical and design clubs begin so it looks like another busy term!

NHEHS Theatre Club

In the Spring term we are introducing the **NHEHS Theatre Club**. Shows under this umbrella will be performed by professional companies who we have invited in to perform in our new studio theatre.

We will be aiming to offer innovative and exciting theatre for very reasonable prices. There will be a range of shows throughout the year and in many cases the actor/s will be available for a question and answer session after the performance.

Tickets will be available from the Theatre Club Box Office and will be open to girls, parents, staff and friends alike. Tickets for the 100-seat venue will be issued on a first come first served basis with no allocated seating. Below is the schedule for your diary. Flyers advertising each show will be sent out a few weeks before the performance with information about ticket purchase, prices and times .

Wednesday 5th March

Roger Llwelllyn

Sherlock Holmes...the final Act

Thursday 27th March

Splendid Theatre

Antigone

Wednesday 14th May

Caroline Horton

You're not like the Other Girls Chrissy