



31st January 2020 - fortnightly

Message from Mr Shoults



As I write this, we are heading out of the EU in under a day. Judging by our mock general election last month, which returned a sweeping Liberal Democrat majority, our students have been a long way from reflecting the national poll three years ago in their views. Yet in discussion with them, their optimism for the future is intact, and I hope that events such as Tuesday's Careers Convention will show them the sheer breadth of opportunities they will be able to seize in their working lives.

I have also been struck by how the girls engage openly and constructively in debate and disagreement in a way which was not perhaps matched in the referendum debate. As I wrote in the Telegraph this week, democracy only flourishes when the environment in which it takes place is structured so that people are forced to hear the different views on offer. We have to set this standard in school, and give students the relevant tools. As I gave my Year 7 students their debating titles for the weeks ahead, meaning some students who love dogs will be proposing the motion that they are a menace to society, they have taken on the challenge gamely and impressively, and will see a wider perspective through the debate. This is a deeply important aim to pursue in education and beyond: without self-consciously looking for ways to see the other side of the argument, we so easily sleepwalk into the sort of intolerance experienced on some university campuses at present.

There is also a wider world to enjoy in such politically challenging times. As I award Year 12 their GCSE certificates this morning, I will be quoting Kurt Vonnegut, who often encouraged young people thus: "I urge you to please notice when you are happy, and exclaim or murmur or think at some point, 'If this isn't nice, I don't know what is'"; so whether that is playing in the recent NHEHS Musician of the Year, or being involved in one of the (many!) sporting triumphs this week, or taking part in Poetry by Heart, I hope our girls will stop and savour the moment.

Events coming up...



- FEBRUARY 4 – Parents' Guild Careers Convention
- FEBRUARY 7 – Move to Ealing Day
- FEBRUARY 7 – TES Awards – NHEHS Shortlisted for Creativity
- FEBRUARY 10 – Visiting Music Teachers and Students Concert
- FEBRUARY 11 – Safer Internet Day (Junior School)
- FEBRUARY 12-14 – NHEHS Film Festival
- FEBRUARY 17- 21 – Half Term (inclusive)

First Ever A-Level English Language Conference at NHEHS

We welcomed students from five West London schools to our first ever English A-Level Language conference last week. Topics included the Oxford English Dictionary, teenagers as leaders of language change and child language and written text, with speakers from Oxford, Newcastle and Southampton Universities. Read Year 12 Georgia's report [here](#)



NHEHS Musician of the Year 2020

Last week we held our NHEHS Musician of the Year 2020 competition in the Recital Hall. With awards in two categories, Years 7-9 and Years 10-13, we were treated to excellent performances from all year groups. Read more [here](#)

NHEHS LEGO League Team Heading to Nationals

LEGO Club isn't just about sitting around building LEGO all day! Did you know that our LEGO team of Year 7-10s competed in the LEGO League Regional competition in December and are going through to the National Finals in Bristol in February? Read Year 8 Tara's report [here](#)



Chromebook Survey Update

Last term, we asked students, parents and staff for feedback on the roll out of Chromebooks for students at NHEHS. Read [here](#) for the key findings of the survey.

We want your news!

We try to cover as much school news as possible here and on our website (there's so much more every week at <https://www.nhehs.gdst.net/news/latest-news/>)

However, we also know that NHEHS girls are busy celebrating success outside school, and we would love to share their success here next academic year. Please do share your great news with us, with accompanying photo, in an email to s.bennett@nhehs.gdst.net and we will include as many as we can!



Tweet of the Week!



Join the conversation @nhehs & @nhehs_sport