

THE HOLLY LEAF

Message from the Head – Mrs Hutley

As the temperature settles down into something resembling summer, so the times we are welcoming parents into school, taking children out of school and the pace of life increases. It was lovely to have a full room of new Junior School parents last week. We have new entrants into Nursery, Reception, Year 3 and Year 4 and have a good deal of interest still for places for September in other years. I have also had a flurry of interest in girls currently in Year 9 looking for a Year 10 place. It occurs to me that in these quite straitened economic times, it is never too late to benefit from a Hollygirt education, especially if older girls are not getting the attention they deserve to make the best possible progress in the two GCSE years. With classes in the maintained sector getting bigger, and tales of no homework, lax attitudes, poor work ethic and a general malaise commonplace, there must be many parents who desire more for their daughters. Should you have friends or neighbours who regret the schooling choices they have made at any stage in their daughter's education, do ask them to get in touch with us. We can still process applications through the holidays!

Never have I been so proud of our older girls than at the Prom at Woodborough Hall last week. The girls were a picture, they had invested considerably in looking their best; creative hairstyles, beautiful make up, fantastic dresses, long, short, wide, narrow in all hues, with feathers, beads and no end of sparkly bits, and such shoes... What is more important is they presented with impeccable manners and behaviour. The staff present enjoyed this very special occasion with the Year 11 girls. I'd like to thank Mrs Nuttall for all her hard work in making the Prom possible. GCSE exams have now finished, after the longest exam season ever; it is a further tribute to our Year 11 leavers that they remained calm and dignified throughout. I hope they reap the fruits of their labours in August.

Since I last wrote we have had two Sports Days - I was sorry to miss the junior event but I know the girls performed well and were a credit to the school. The senior event was a further triumph. There is nothing as uplifting as seeing the athletic talent power round the track, each girl really giving her best to earn points for her house. This year the victory was with Thoresby. Many thanks to the Friends of Hollygirt for their refreshments stall at these events - another example of the fantastic contribution they make to our special occasions. Remember, more volunteers to join Friends of Hollygirt and help out at events are urgently sought for the next academic year. Once again I throw down the gauntlet to the men out there!

We have had two concerts: the senior serenade was a gorgeous concert with some star performances and lovely recitations. It was great to see a dance item for the first time. The junior mini musicals were hugely entertaining, with pirates and mini-beasts all over the place! Great costumes. Thanks to Mrs Storey, Mrs Purchase and the peripatetic staff for their organisation and rehearsals for these events.

8 school days to go before the big summer holidays: still lots to be done, but counting...

Message from the Head of Juniors – Mrs Payne

This academic year is very quickly coming to an end with still so much to do!

Parents have the opportunity to watch their daughters during their ballet classes on Monday 11th July - Nursery are performing at 11am and Reception & Year 1 at 2.00pm in the Senior School Hall. We have lots of Year 5 girls from all over Nottingham coming to spend time in the Senior School next Tuesday. I hope they have a fun packed and exciting day. Year 5 are going to Razzle Dazzle to paint pots on Wednesday 13th July. I can't wait to see their finished creations. Year 6 have a busy day on Thursday 14th July with their leavers assembly at 9.00am (Year 6 parents are very welcome to watch) followed by a Maths Workshop by a 'Mathemagician'! This workshop will cover fun and exciting Maths challenges for girls from Reception to Year 6. Hopefully the ideas the girls pick up from the day will inspire them to want to achieve more in their Maths lessons.

I would like to thank all the parents who have taken time out of their busy schedules to attend some of the many activities / productions / twilight sessions we have put on. Your attendance at such events is greatly appreciated. Many thanks.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sat 9th &
Sun 10th July

Bronze Duke of
Edinburgh
Final
Expedition

Mon 11th
July

Year 7 Geography
Visit to Cadbury
World

Tues 12th
July

Year 5 'Insight
into Senior
School' Day

Fri 15th
July

Senior School
Form Lunches

Fri 15th
July

Nursery to Yr6
Reports sent home

Mon
18th July

Year 7 Art Visit
to Nottingham
Trent University
& Sketching
Exercise

Mon 18th
July

Year 9 Women
in Engineering
Event

Tues 19th July
3.30-5.15pm

Nursery - Yr2
Summer
Disco

Wed 20th July

Yr7 to Yr10
Reports sent
home

End of Term
finish at 12
noon

PROPOSED CHANGES TO CITY SCHOOLS TERM DATES

You may have read in the Nottingham Evening Post that Nottingham City Council are consulting on a proposal to change the term structure in their schools from September 2012. The details can be found at www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/terms.

We are aware that many of our parents work in or have other children in city schools and that such changes would impact on Hollygirt. I will be making a school response to the consultation. You may like to consider the issues and respond yourself, or let me know your views.

The school buses run during the term time of Nottingham High School and are shared by us, Nottingham High School and Nottingham Girls' High School. There are occasions when at the beginning or end of term, dates vary slightly.

Parents are requested to check the days on which school buses will not run and make appropriate alternative arrangements. The buses are not the direct responsibility of Hollygirt.

Please note that as both Nottingham High School and Nottingham Girls' High School finish on Fri 15th July, buses will not be running on Mon 18th, Tues 19th & Wed 20th July.

Any queries about buses organised by Nottingham High School should be made to Mrs C Winter at Nottingham High School on 0115 845 2217.

All entries for the Photography Competition (with the theme of nature) are to be handed in to Mrs Atherton by Tuesday 12th July.

Monday 11th July, 4pm - Eastwood Tennis Club Schools Doubles Tennis Tournament

Bronze D of E girls are out in the Vale of Belvoir over the weekend. They need to be at their starting points no later than 8.45am on Saturday.

My Daughter July Parents' Newsletter - as part of the Girls' School Association, we are pleased to pass on their newsletter which contains no end of useful information for parents of girls. If you have received this issue via email link, the pdf is attached, otherwise visit their website at www.mydaughter.co.uk.

I am starting to read the senior school reports that you will be receiving towards the end of term. I am aware that many girls' formal names are not the ones we use in school, but traditionally these have been used on their reports by the senior teachers. Next term when you receive your Pupil Information Form we will ask for a 'preferred name' which we can use instead, so if your daughter is christened Emily, for example, but has always been known to school as Millie, she can be called this on her reports. Of course her birth name will still appear on her official certificates.

The German Year 10 class are doing their Speaking Controlled Assessment during their lesson on Monday 18th July.

**Year 9 "Women into Engineering" Event
Hosiery Mill; Sports Complex, Sutton-in-Ashfield
Monday 18th July**

The aim of this event is to make girls aware of the career opportunities available for them in engineering and mainly consists of a practical activity – constructing a bridge.

The coach will leave school at 9am and return about 1pm.

JUNIOR SCHOOL LUNCHESES

There was a concern raised at the last Parents' Forum meeting that on a number of occasions junior girls are asked to bring a packed lunch from home when the cost of lunches is already built into the fees.

Whilst it is appreciated that there is the occasional ask when girls are out on a trip, there are numerous reasons why this is necessary. The first is a health and hygiene issue - we are unable to provide a packed lunch for these occasions as we have no way of keeping food at an appropriate temperature and if a girl were to become ill as a result the school would be liable.

Secondly, without a doubt, girls get excited about being able to bring food from home. It is a rare treat for them and they can have a lunch with items chosen specifically for/by them. We do urge you to pack in an appropriate container with cool box style lid.

Whilst lunches are inclusive, we do not itemise a separate charge for them so no reimbursement can be offered for such days, however we are aware that the school does provide several other activities above the standard offering, the costs of which are covered entirely or subsidised by school e.g. the 'Shakespeare 4 Kidz' day last term.

A further concern was raised about the cost of entry to school shows and musical events. We make no charge for such events which happen in school, but in order to give girls the opportunity of performing in other, more varied venues we ask parents for an entry fee to cover the costs of the venue hire and at such times we include the cost of refreshments in the ticket price. We price events fairly and make no additional funds from this. We hope this is acceptable to you. Many comparable schools charge for in house events too...