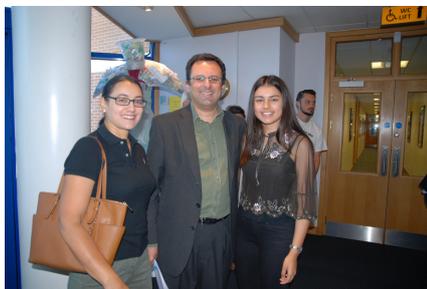


SEPTEMBER 2019

HEADLINES

Termly parent newsletter from Northampton High School



SUCCESS FOR U5 GIRLS ON GCSE RESULTS DAY

A WARM WELCOME

Mrs Caroline Petryszak, Acting Head

It is a privilege to be asked to step up as Acting Head this year and I am grateful to Dr Stringer for a comprehensive handover and the ongoing support of both her and the senior team. Having served as Head of Junior School for the past academic year, I already have in-depth knowledge of the age 2-11 sections of the school and have worked closely with staff, parents and girls in this capacity.

I look forward to continuing these relationships, and to developing new ones as I get to know the Senior School and Sixth Form in more depth over the coming weeks. There will be the opportunity for us to meet at one or more of the many events of the Autumn



Term but if you would like a face-to-face meeting, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Dee Brown (d.brown@nhs.gdst.net) to arrange this.

WE BELIEVE IN OUR GIRLS AND THEY BELIEVE IN THEMSELVES

NEW BEGINNINGS - JUNIOR SCHOOL

Chris Bailey, Head of Junior School

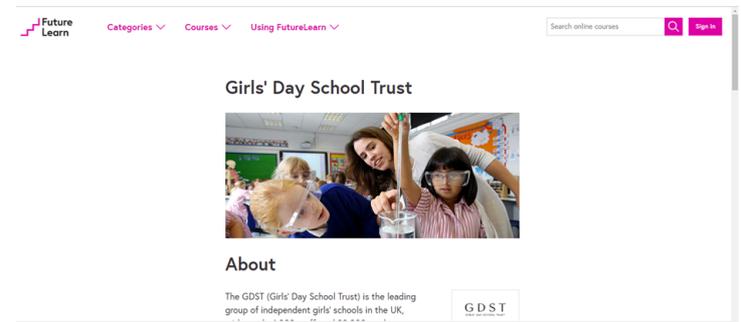
I am immensely proud to have joined Northampton High School and the GDST community. Previously, I held the position of co-head of Junior School Vlaskamp, The British School in the Netherlands, where I worked for six wonderful years. Leading a school in an international context has given me the opportunity to view education through an alternative lens, and helped me to understand that context matters so much when exploring strategic school development. Meeting the needs and expectations of an incredibly diverse community was challenging but immensely rewarding work.

I am passionate about developing leadership capacity within schools, and believe that focused and strategic staff professional development can have the most significant impact on student progress. I believe that children have the right to broad and balanced curriculum opportunities and that we have a responsibility to help young people find their voice. I have found the whole community at Northampton High School to be incredibly welcoming and transparent, and look forward to meeting you all in my new role as Head of Juniors.



FEARLESS AND FORWARD THINKING – SENIOR SCHOOL

Adèle O’Doherty, Deputy Head Pastoral Care and Guidance



As I look forward to the coming year, it is actually my own studies that are at the forefront of my mind. I am studying as part of an Open University Masters Degree. The current module is considering technology-enhanced learning and my most recent work has considered the future landscape of education; a rather vast, uncharted territory in the rapidly changing landscape of the 21st Century workplace.

Whilst studying the course, I have enjoyed considering the role of technology in education beyond the simple question of what devices we might use in school and which applications are suited to different tasks and subjects. The more philosophical questions such as “How can technology add value to the learning process” and “What advantages can technology offer to enhance ‘traditional’ methods” have inspired and challenged me. Therefore, when offered the opportunity to design an online course, via the GDST’s partnership with online learning platform FutureLearn, I jumped at the chance.

This September, I am delighted to launch our unique ‘Advanced Skills for EPQ and Beyond’ FutureLearn course for all of our 6.1 Students. We have offered a course in Advanced Study Skills for 6.1 for some time now and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a

qualification that we strongly advise Sixth Formers to take as part of their Elective programme. But – and this is where the ‘technology-enhanced’ element comes into its own – it has always been difficult to fit this vital course into the timetables of all students, around their other options and A Levels.

This timetabling dilemma arises because we enable students to have an individual, bespoke programme in the Sixth Form; something we are proud of and would not want to change. However, offering the Advanced Skills course as a six-week online programme means that students can participate asynchronously rather than having to attend a timetabled lesson each week (although we do offer weekly tutorials to support the course and offer face-to-face discussion of the topics covered).

I’m really excited about this course and to be able to offer something to our students that few schools are able to do on the excellent FutureLearn platform. It is my aspiration to ultimately further harness the advantages of enhancing our teaching and learning through bespoke open online courses on a range of topics.

NEW 6.1S 'GET SET FOR LIFE' AS THEY BEGIN THEIR SIXTH FORM COURSES

Julia Cantwell, Director of Sixth Form

We are delighted to welcome twelve new girls into 6.1 this term. Today they travelled to Churchill College, Cambridge for our annual ‘Inspire East’ joint sixth-form induction conference with students and colleagues from Norwich, Bromley and Blackheath High Schools.

The theme was ‘Get Set for Life’ and the girls were inspired to do just that by a line-up of excellent keynote speakers in the morning and a choice of stimulating workshops in the afternoon.

In addition to the full range of fully linear A Level options, students are able to take new electives including Gold Arts Award, Debating and Classical World in addition to those in Politics and International Relations, Enterprise and Film this year. The EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) and MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) will also be available together with the Young Philanthropy, Enterprise and Community Sports Leaders programmes. We look forward to meeting the parents of all 6.1 students at our Sixth Form Welcome Evening on Tuesday 1 October when the girls will share their experiences of the first few weeks in the Sixth Form.



THE CLASS OF 2020 TAKE THEIR PLACE AT THE TOP OF THE SCHOOL

Julia Cantwell, Director of Sixth Form

6.2s returned to school ready to finalise their university applications with a record number preparing to sit demanding entrance tests for Oxford and Cambridge, and Medical and Vet schools. They have been inspired by the success of the class of 2019 who achieved an outstanding set of external examination results this summer enabling them to take their places at their ambitious choice of universities, conservatoires or creative academies both here and abroad.



Following the success of the Sixth Form residential to Iceland last Autumn, this year we will be travelling to San Francisco and Silicon Valley in October. The programme for 2020 trip to Amsterdam has now been confirmed and will be launched and open for booking next week.

SIXTH FORM DIARY DATES 2019-21

There is a multitude of fantastic opportunities for Sixth Form students which will broaden horizons and enrich experiences in the Sixth Form. Those already in the calendar include:

Erasmus Conference Riga – 29/09 - 05/10
Sixth Form Erasmus Ambassadors will visit Riga to work with students from partner schools in Porto, Budapest and Amberg to explore Creativity and Digital Competencies for the World of Work.



6.1 Welcome Evening – Tuesday 01/10

For students, parents and guardians.

MedVet Conference – Thursday 10/10

Workshops and guest speakers for those applying for Medicine and VetSci at university.

Sixth Form trip to San Francisco and Silicon Valley – 18/10 - 23/10

Awards Evening – Friday 08/11

Visit to Parliament - Wednesday 13/11

Psychology in Action Conference – Tuesday 3/12

Sixth Form Christmas Celebration, Mocktails and Mince Pies – Monday 16/12

Montpellier Homestay – 15 - 19/02/20

D of E Gold Practice Expedition – 01 - 04/03/20

Berlin trip - 05 - 09/04/20

Valencia trip – 06 - 10/04/20

Biology Field trip - 15 - 18/06/20

Geneva/CERN – 28/06/20 – 01/07/20

And, of course, the Sixth Form trip to Amsterdam, October half term 2020, final dates and details to be confirmed.

CLASS OF 2019

Caroline Petryszak

Thursday 15 August was a very proud day for us as we were able to celebrate a set of excellent A Level results with the 6.2s and their families. The statistics only tell a small part of the story, because each set of grades is an individual case history, for each student who has worked across three or four subjects to do their very best and meet their offer, and for every teacher who has done their utmost to optimise the results for their classes. However, the stats made for happy reading – with 38% of grades at A*/A and 24% of students achieving three or more A*/A grades.

Even more pleasing were the many success stories of individual girls who exceeded their own expectations or overcame personal setbacks to achieve their hoped-for grades. Finally, the aspect of the day which is perhaps the most satisfying is the range and quality of the destination routes the girls are set to embark on.

I would also like to congratulate our new 6.1s on their successes at GCSE. The headline statistics – such as 38% of all grades at 9/8/A* and 58% at 9-7 (A*-A) - offer only the merest glimpse into the hard work that went into achieving them, by both the girls and their teachers.



Course	University
Psychology	Bath
Civil Engineering	Birmingham
English	Birmingham
Computer Science with Digital Technology Partnership(PwC)	Birmingham
Medicine	Birmingham
Classical Literature and Civilisation	Birmingham
History	Birmingham
Film Making	Birmingham City
International Tourism Management	Brighton
Economics	Brunel University London
Paramedic Science	Coventry
Nursing	De Montfort
Mathematics	Imperial College, London
Criminal Justice and Criminology	Kent
Psychology	King's College London
Psychology	King's College London
Economics	King's College London
Natural Sciences	Lancaster
Geography	Leeds
Geography and Business Management	Leeds
International Relations	Leeds
Criminology	Leicester
Medicine	Leicester
Biological Sciences	Leicester
Psychology	Leicester
Graphic Design	Norwich University of the Arts
Fashion Marketing and Branding	Nottingham Trent
Economics	Nottingham Trent
Fashion Marketing and Branding	Nottingham Trent
Liberal Arts (Music)	Oral Roberts, Tulsa, USA
Classics	Oxford
International Hospitality Management	Oxford Brookes
Nutrition	Oxford Brookes
International Relations and Politics	Oxford Brookes
Psychology	Oxford Brookes
Geography	Queen Mary's University of London
Comparative Literature	Queen Mary's University of London
Music(Composition)	Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
Music (Brass)	Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama
Fashion Image Making and Styling	Salford
Medicine	Sheffield
Medicine	Sheffield
Economics	Tbc, New Zealand
Special Effects/Film/Studio Make Up	The Iver Make Up Academy, Pinewood Studios
Mathematics and Statistical Science	UCL
Mathematics	UCL
Animation	University for Creative Arts
Linguistics	York
Law	York

PEOPLE

Caroline Petryszak

We said goodbye to a number of colleagues at the end of the academic year, including Mr David Norman, Mr Godfrey Green and Mrs Lucy Flannagan who had joined us on short-term contracts. Miss Emily Gibbard was also with us for a fixed term, having served as our Graduate Sports Assistant over three terms. An NHS alumna, we were particularly proud of the fact that she secured her first teaching position at the Royal Latin School in Buckingham.

Mrs Stephanie Sinclair left the Junior School after a year for family reasons. It was, she said, the best year of her teaching career and she was very reluctant to leave, but needed to relocate. Also separated by the miles was Miss May Balchin who left us after two years to take up a position as a Classics teacher closer to her family home in Bath - and Miss Sarah Hanlon, our school counsellor, who left us after nearly 4 years to take up a new role in Manchester and to begin her Masters studies.

Mrs Kim Li-Lakkappa left the Biology department and Mrs Elizabeth Arkell moved to Oundle School where she has achieved her ambition of becoming Director of Academic Music.

Three members of the PE department who had been with us since 2010 left to pursue other adventures: Mrs Erica Ford to retirement and the long-awaited term-time holidays; Mrs Jo Webb to follow a slightly different direction as a teacher of Mathematics at Moulton and Mrs Jo Hackett to begin her exciting new role as Director of Sport at the Loughborough Schools Foundation.

We bade farewell to three minibus drivers: Mr Paul Jinks, Mr Chris Mannion and Mr Alex Smith, each of whom had contributed to the development of the service over the years. Ms Zeliah Gunal, IT technician and Miss Karen Bricknall, Creative Arts Technician both moved to new positions and will be missed for their significant contribution as support staff. Finally, the whole school joined in thanking Mrs Dawn McCue who left her position of Catering Manager after almost 12 years' service. During this time she managed the implementation of many changes to school catering including the introduction of compulsory lunches, the new sandwich room, the refurbished dining room and a very popular salad and jacket potato bar. We thank her, and all leaving colleagues, for their contribution to the life of NHS.

We welcomed back a number of returning staff this week: Mrs Gretel Cocks joins us for a second time in the English department, as does Mrs Leona

Heimfeld, who also leads Film and Outreach. Mrs Judith Jennings joins the PE department on an interim basis, having taught at the school several years ago.

We also welcomed a number of new staff to the team and very much look forward to working with them this year:

- Mrs Naomi Anzalone: Catering Assistant
- Mr Chris Bailey: Head of Junior School
- Mrs Carole Briggs: Nursery Chef
- Miss Eden Brown: Graduate Sports Assistant
- Mr John Colantonio: Minibus Driver
- Miss Michelle Cook: Nursery (Summer 2019)
- Mr Roger Curtis: Minibus Driver
- Miss Rose-Marie Golaub: Wellbeing Practitioner
- Mr Stephen Greenhow: Minibus Driver
- Mrs Jenny Hatwood: Chemistry and Biology
- Miss Katie James: PE
- Mrs Dawn Old: Cleaning Assistant
- Miss Nikki O'Mahony: Year 1 Teacher
- Mrs Sarah Redmond: SIMS Database Assistant
- Miss Anna Roworth: Graduate Sports Assistant
- Mrs Maggie Smith: Music

PLACES

Caroline Petryszak

There have been a number of summer works on the site, the most (externally) visible being the digging up of some of the car park in order to upgrade the incoming electricity supply for the installation of a huge walk-in fridge and freezer and catering-staff facilities have also been improved.

Out of site of the public eye have been the very necessary maintenance jobs of checking site safety, painting and refurbishment. More excitingly to most is the replacement of the Hall ceiling and lighting and we now have energy-efficient bulbs that react to ambient movement.

The Nursery has been completely refurbished with new flooring, lighting, blinds, decoration and furniture as well as the construction of a new kitchen and dining area and the Reception class outdoor space has been resurfaced.

With all best wishes for the coming term,

C. Petryszak

Caroline Petryszak
Acting Head



TERM DATES

AUTUMN TERM 2019

THURSDAY 5 SEPTEMBER
MONDAY 21 OCTOBER
TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER

FIRST DAY OF TERM
HALF TERM (2 WEEKS)
TERM ENDS

SPRING TERM 2020

MONDAY 6 JANUARY
TUESDAY 7 JANUARY
MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY
FRIDAY 3 APRIL

INSET
FIRST DAY OF TERM
HALF TERM (1 WEEK)
TERM ENDS

SUMMER TERM 2020

MONDAY 20 APRIL
TUESDAY 21 APRIL
MONDAY 25 MAY
FRIDAY 10 JULY

INSET
FIRST DAY OF TERM
HALF TERM (1 WEEK)
TERM ENDS (12NOON)

AUTUMN TERM 2020

THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER
FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER
MONDAY 7 SEPTEMBER
MONDAY 19 OCTOBER
FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER

INSET
INSET
FIRST DAY OF TERM
HALF TERM (2 WEEKS)
TERM ENDS

SPRING TERM 2021

FRIDAY 8 JANUARY
MONDAY 11 JANUARY
MONDAY 15 FEBRUARY
FRIDAY 26 MARCH

INSET
FIRST DAY OF TERM
HALF TERM (1 WEEK)
TERM ENDS

SUMMER TERM 2021

WEDNESDAY 14 APRIL
THURSDAY 15 APRIL
MONDAY 31 MAY
FRIDAY 17 JULY

INSET
FIRST DAY OF TERM
HALF TERM (1 WEEK)
TERM ENDS (12NOON)