

INTRODUCTION

MEETING TIM PEAKE



In November, six Junior School girls travelled to York University to the Principia Schools Conference. The girls had taken part in the Rocket Science Experiment initiated by the UK Space Agency and European Space Agency and supported by the Principia Mission which sent British Astronaut Tim Peake to the International Space Station. 2Kg of rocket seeds were stored in microgravity by Tim Peake and returned to Earth in the spring of 2016. Our Year 5 girls successfully applied to be part of the experiment to germinate the rocket seeds and compare the seeds that had been in space with seeds kept on Earth. At the conference the girls were treated to an inspiring talk by Tim Peake, a show demonstrating interesting experiments, a hands-on exhibition and, amazingly, a chance to talk to Tim Peake!

NEW SIXTH FORM SUBJECTS

This year two new subjects have been introduced at AS Level in the Sixth Form, Film Studies and Politics. Both have proved very popular with the girls and the Film Studies students have been enjoying some inspiring, interesting and enjoyable trips to enhance their learning. They followed in the footsteps of Benedict Cumberbatch, Lupita Nyong'o and Mark Hamill with a visit to the Imaginarium Studios in London to explore Performance Capture. They also travelled to Norwich to meet with Josh and Kirstie of FX Home, the leading maker of software that enable filmmakers to create high quality but low cost post-production effects.

We hope you enjoyed the Old Girls' newsletter sent out in the autumn with the many interesting articles and news from School. Here are some more highlights of events and achievements at Northampton High and ways to keep in touch.

WELCOME BACK - CLASS OF 2016

In November before our annual Awards Evening we welcomed our most recent leavers, the Class of 2016, back into school for the first time as alumnae at a drinks reception. There was a wonderful atmosphere as girls caught up with each other and staff and shared stories of all they had been doing since they left.

After the reunion, everyone gathered for our annual Awards Evening to celebrate the achievements of girls across the Senior School. We were delighted to welcome Kenneth Tharp, OBE, Chief Executive of The Place, the UK's leading centre for contemporary dance development to speak and present the prizes.



GDST INSPIRE EAST

GDST Inspire East is a collaboration between three Girls' Day School Trust schools; Northampton High School, Ipswich High School and Norwich High School. The aim of the group is to promote collaboration across a range of subjects and age groups.

As part of the Sixth Form Collaboration group an induction conference titled "Dare to Dream" was held last term at Churchill College, Cambridge, attended by around 150 6-1 students from the three schools. There was an inspiring and exciting programme including a presentation called "Dare to Dream" by Hayley Barnard, MIX Diversity Developers; a session by Dr Lisa Jardine-Wright, Director of Studies, Natural Sciences, Churchill College on the subject "Aiming High and Following your Dreams" and a talk from Jane Marshall from Imperial College London about choosing a University and what admissions tutors are looking for.

PERFORMING AND CREATIVE ARTS

For many of us the high point of the year in the Creative and Performing Arts is the Arts Festival and last year's event turned out to be one of the most memorable ever. Highlights included the continuous set pieces in the Drama Studio which was remodelled to represent a gothic mansion; the beautifully decorated 'pop up' café in the Food Department and continuing with the boutique theme, a designer fashion shop containing the Fashion and Textiles students' own sartorial confections. Musical entertainment was ever present, from individual singers in the foyer to an extravagant performance of the Lion King whilst in Junior School visitors were given an aquatic experience to remember with multiple representations of fish in sculpture and other artistic media. We also use the Arts Festival as an opportunity to celebrate the work of the Friends of Northampton High, who gifted the School the excellent sum of more than £3000.



In October, the Senior Drama Company entertained us with a thought provoking production of Georg Büchner's, 'Woyzeck'. Büchner was inspired by a true story that he read in a Scientific journal about a man named Woyzeck who murdered his wife. The Senior Drama Company did a splendid job highlighting the complex and conflicting human emotions and represented the stark and challenging experience for the audience.

CELEBRATING HIGH SCHOOL MILESTONES

We have very exciting times ahead in the life of Northampton High and we are looking forward to seeing our alumnae who we are already in touch with and reconnecting with many other former pupils to mark some key milestones. This year we will be celebrating 25 years on our Hardingstone site. The school moved here in 1992 with the building opened by the Queen on 16 October. We will be inviting our alumnae who left this site (Class of 1993 to present day) to come for an afternoon on 14 October 2017 of 'sharing memories and fun' with a chance to tour the school, chat to old friends, staff and former staff and we hope as many as possible will be able to join us.

Next year, 2018 marks our 140th Anniversary and even more celebrations and activities will be happening to mark this important year in the School's history.

ALUMNA AUTHOR VISIT

We really enjoyed welcoming author and alumna, Louise Robertson into school in the autumn term. Louise read her stories to the younger girls which they loved and shared her exciting new children's book called 'Woofy Woo Woo: The Artist Dog'. She also spent time with Year 5 and 6 talking about writing for a younger audience.



KEEPING IN TOUCH

Keep up to date with news from the school by following us on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn and read our latest blogs and news on our website.

The Old Girls database allows us keep in touch with you more easily. Please send your email address or changes to postal address to Jo Fitzroy-Ezzy. Our employment data is an invaluable resource for Careers Fairs, talks, prize giving and advice for the current girls on particular careers, please send this through to Jo.

Finally, if you know of any former pupils who do not receive the annual newsletter and would like to be part of the Old Girls Association and GDST Alumnae Network, we would love to hear from them. They can send their details to Jo, as below or to our Chair of Old Girls, Carolyn White, see our Alumnae website pages for more details.

Jo Fitzroy-Ezzy, Development Director

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Open Days

Friday 10 March 2017 - Whole School Open Day
Friday 5 May 2017 - Whole School Open Day

Other Events

Saturday 28 January 2017 - OGA Annual Lunch
Thursday 16 & Friday 17 March - Senior School Production 'We Will Rock You'
Wednesday 10 May - The 1878 Society Lunch
Thursday 29 June - Arts Festival
Saturday 14 October - 25 Years at Hardingstone