

**Dates for your diary**

- Sunday 3 Jan - Nugent opens*
- Monday 4 Jan - Lent term begins*
- Monday 18 Jan - Year 11 mocks*
- Thursday 21 Jan - exeat starts 3pm*
- Sunday 24 Jan - exeat ends 9pm*
- Friday 12 Feb 2pm - half term starts*
- Sunday 21 Feb - half term ends 9pm*
- Friday 19 March - term ends 3pm*



**Looking ahead.....**

You will notice that the 'Dates for your diary' is remarkably brief, but that is a reflection of the times. The headmaster has already written to you about the test regime which will be in place for next term, and with quarantine time now being five days and all of the talk in the news about the vaccine, we really do need to look to 2021 with a sense of optimism. There still remains a lot of uncertainty surrounding exams and universities, but I would encourage your daughter to continue to work hard - endeavour is always rewarded. She has the full support of all in Nugent.

I would like to thank you all once again for your support and understanding during this most challenging term. What has really made the difference in the dark days of lockdown was picking up the phone in the knowledge that we were working together to fight the invisible enemy, and that certainly made my job infinitely more manageable. As ever, it is the girls who make the community, and they - and you - have been exceptional in their appreciation of the challenges. Finally I apologise if the cross section of photos in this newsletter does not quite capture as many girls as I would want it to, but the nature of this term has been irregular to say the least.

I finished my September letter with the quotation 'The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails.' At times it has felt as if the sails of the Nugent ship have been adjusted, stretched and battered in ways which I never thought imaginable, but together we have weathered the storms and together we will sail with energy and optimism into 2021 and be ready for whatever it brings. My warmest wishes to you all for a peaceful Christmas.

Vicky



# Nugent News

Michaelmas 2020



Dear Parents

I normally describe the Michaelmas term as the marathon of all terms; however this one has been more like an ultra, with a fiendishly challenging obstacle course thrown in at the end for good measure! However in spite of the immense upheaval of these extraordinary past few months, what has certainly kept me going has been the good humour of the girls and their remarkable resilience. Thank you to all of you for your good wishes, especially during the Nugent lockdown.

From being an abstract concept found hovering around cruise ships and old people's homes, Covid really did come at us with a vengeance. At the height of our Nugent pandemic, we had 17 girls isolating in house and Nugent really did feel like a makeshift hospital/hotel as meals and snacks were delivered to those isolating in their rooms - my 4am 'worry slot' filled with the intricacies of individual return dates. Thank you for your flexibility regarding sudden departures, room shuffles, the switch to remote learning and last-minute changes to arrangements. In amongst the admin, the fact that this is a potentially serious illness, and I hope that anyone still suffering makes a speedy recovery and that it has not altered plans for the holidays too much. However the term has not just been about Covid - great things have happened too - and it is important to celebrate this. We welcomed eighteen new girls into the Nugent community, as well as four new members of staff and it is impossible to imagine Nugent without their presence. We have certainly become more resourceful during the dark nights of lockdown in the more traditional skills - crocheting has become a particular favourite - and I hope that these pages reflect some vestiges of normality in a far from normal term.



**BE ALL YOU CAN BE**

# Nugent News



**Show Hsm Leaderboard Michaelmas 2020**

- 1) Nina Wilczak (14)
- 2) Elisabeth Spory (13)
- 3) Rebecca Winsor (11)
- 4) Izzie Steed (9)
- 5) Alisa Ievskaia (8)
- 6) Cindia Zhou (8)



## Academic

I am delighted to report that the majority of Nugent girls have worked really well both in and out of the classroom this term, with huge numbers of the house working above the year group average. Adding together both eRCs, the current leaders are (proudly announced in rank order.)

- 1) Elisabeth Spory (12.28)
- 2) Georgie Ginbey (11.73)
- 3) Nina Wilczak (11.67)
- 4) Imogen Symonds (11.52)
- 5) Susan Shan (11.5)
- 6) Jessica Fu (11.44)
- 6) Sophia Semkina (11.44)
- 7) Olivia McKeown (11.35)
- 8) Megan Moore (11.34)
- 9) Rosie Wheatley (11.28)
- 10) Abbie Coleman (11.28)

**Sophia Semkina** was awarded FIRST place in the Headmaster's essay challenge over the summer holiday for her fascinating research into psychology.

**Sasha Rozanov** has launched and now runs a very popular sixth form politics society on Saturday mornings.

**Susan Shan** and the recently returned **Cindia Zhou** both gained gold awards in the senior maths challenge.

**Rebekah Agunede** has been invited to Manchester University for an interview for medicine.

**Imogen Symonds** was placed on the gifted and talented register in textiles, and **Rosie Wheatley** was awarded a departmental commendation

**Abbie Coleman** gained half colours in art.

**Nina Wilczak** gained a headmaster's commendation for overall achievement this term.



## Tutors

I would like to express my thanks to Jo and all of the Nugent tutors for their dedication and expertise this term. Jo has established herself at the heart of the Nugent community, and she really has gone the extra mile in preparing tasty morsels for those isolating. The tutors have organized quiz evenings, a pamper party, pottery painting, crocheting, crafts, board games while at the same time keeping a close eye on the academic and pastoral progress of your daughter.



## Sport and D of E

With all fixtures cancelled, there have been fewer sporting opportunities this term. Thankfully, we have been able to make the most of our seaside location and enjoy some much needed blue health. It feels a long time since a group of girls accompanied me in a virtual 5k race as part of the Marathon of Afghanistan - even more impressive were the Year 9s who then went on a hike on the Downs immediately afterwards! The following weekend, **Clarissa Muzariri, Daisy Quitmann, Iz-zie Steed, Kristina Duckett, Elisabeth Spory** and **Nina Wilczak** took part in the Eastbourne biathlon - one of the few actual races happening this year. The atmosphere was fantastic, to swim in the sea in September is no mean feat. Well done especially to **Nina** who placed third in her category. We have also enjoyed several interhouse competitions - the Lower 6 are netball and hockey champions and we have discovered some talent in the Year 9 in badminton - we take on Watt in the final next term. In the Lower 6th, **Sophia Semkina, Rosie Wheatley, Sasha Rozanov, Annie Pool, Savannah Winston, Jess Lock** and **Georgie Ginbey** all have completed their silver DofE award over the October half term, and in Year 11, **Harriet Bennie, Kristina Duckett** and **Megan Richardson** are quite literally following in their foot-steps.



## Performing Arts

Against the odds, A-level and GCSE drama practicals have managed to take place, but one of the biggest tragedies of this term was having to withdraw from the a-capella when I was so certain that we would have won! However, the singer songwriters have been performing in earnest; we heard original songs from **Olivia Jayaraj, Elo Quitmann, Sacha Hood** and **Sasha Rozanov, Ella Parker** and **Willow McNulty** at the beginning of term, and they are currently working towards their next album. **Liza Thwaites** also put in a performance on her saxophone. **Liv** and **Elo** additionally entertained the troops in Chapel. **Liv** was awarded full colours in music, and **Lucy George** in drama.



## Year 9 Drama

What a triumph! Chaucer might not be an obvious choice to whet the appetite of the average teenager, but the girls threw themselves wholeheartedly into a slick, witty and slightly saucy version of The Miller's Tale, with a Nugent twist! We were pipped to the post in the overall competition by Wargrave, but **Rebecca Winsor** won the Oscar for Best Actress. It was directed brilliantly by **Georgie Ginbey** and **Savannah Winston** and I was very proud of all of the girls for their energy and enthusiasm. Opposite you see the Nugent red hot poker!



## Charity

As well as getting behind the harvest giving, Nugent has now launched our Ten for Tom Appeal in order to raise funds for Kate Lazidares' brother Tom who needs ongoing medical treatment following a life changing accident at Easter. We have been a bit limited in what we have managed to do so far due to all of the restrictions—sadly the days of a 24 hour sweaty bikeathon in the common room are a dim and distant memory, but the girls have found creative ways in which to raise funds. **Savannah Winston** and **Sacha Hood** plan to walk from Tunbridge Wells to Brighton (ideally in 10 hours!) and **Megan Moore** and **Georgie Ginbey** plan to run a marathon distance in the same time. **Miss Woodham** ran 10k in the corridors of Nugent one Sunday afternoon, and more plans are afoot for virtual concerts, sponsored silences (I like that idea!) and similar challenges. Unable to run at the moment, I plan to do 10k on the ski erg in the New Year. Please do get involved if you would like to at any point, and if you feel in a position to be able to donate, the link is below.

<https://eu-west-1.protection.sophos.com?d=justgiving.com>



## Farewell to Mrs Whiddett Adams

After eight years of fun, laughter and boundless energy, we are so sorry to have to say goodbye to Mrs Whiddett Adams who takes up her role as Hsm of School House in January—one which is fully deserved and where she will excel. I know that I speak on behalf of all of the girls and parents that Nugent's loss is very much School House's gain. The good times were always going to have to end - she, Michael, Elsbeth and Poppy have literally outgrown the resident tutor's flat, but we will miss her immensely. Carla has been an outstanding tutor, guiding many a tutee from Year 9 through to Upper 6th, and the lives of

so many girls have been enriched by Carla's presence. Carla has been the inspiration behind far too many (embarrassing!) tutor sketches in the House concerts, pamper evenings, trips to Harry Potter, pre-ball nails and prosecco parties, Hornets netball, the Nugent bear, BBQs, Nugent PE revision sessions, and far much more. I will never forget her coming into the common room the day after Elsbeth was born looking as fresh as a daisy. The second best girls' boarding house really has found a gem in Carla. Lizzie Horridge has big feet to fill, but she will be a very worthy successor.

