

# nuast

Nottingham University Academy  
of Science and Technology

# NUAST News

October 2017

## Message from the Principal

Welcome to the first newsletter of the autumn term. The start of the year has been very busy and we have enjoyed welcoming our new students to Year 12 and 10. Students in Years 10 and 11 are looking very smart in their new look uniform. Feedback has been very positive.

We have achieved outstanding GCSE and A level results during the summer period and our students have all moved on to university, higher apprenticeship, further education or employment. We are immensely proud of their achievement. Examination of the recently released provisional performance tables places NUAST as the number one 14-19 specialist STEM school for student progress and achievement in the country. This is obviously an important achievement and reflects the hard work, drive and determination of both staff and students. Well done to everyone.

The first term has been very busy and Year 10 students have undertaken baseline testing to establish their attainment levels in Mathematics, English and Science. This information will be used to closely monitor their achievement and to ensure that each of them makes the anticipated level of progress during their time at NUAST. Year 10 have also undertaken CPR training with the University Hospital.

Year 11, 12 and 13 have taken part in a careers day with NUAST industry partners and the team from Ideas 4 Careers. Employment information workshops, applying for a job and interview technique were covered. Many thanks to the local companies that have supported this initiative.

Year 13 students have experienced the trip of a lifetime, visiting Shanghai and Ningbo in China. Students were able to visit our partner school and The University of Nottingham campus in Ningbo. Students and staff have come back inspired. The next visit is planned for October 2018.

Open evenings for Year 7, 10 and 12 have taken place and there is significant interest for all year groups. The growing reputation of NUAST, the excellent results obtained by students last summer and the successful OFSTED inspection visit have triggered a lot of interest. If you have family or friends interested in joining us please get them to call reception to discuss opportunities that are available.

Mr White



# NUAST students visit China

Half of our Year 13 cohort had a once-in-a-lifetime trip to China this term, experiencing Shanghai, a local school, and university lab work.

With a population of over 24 million, Shanghai is the largest city in the world. Students explored the back streets of ancient market places where they bartered for goods, wondered at the dizzying heights of the skyscrapers in the financial district and toured the Shanghai Museum which displayed numerous artefacts from the city's history of trade.

Earlier in the year a group of Chinese students from Xingning Middle School in Ningbo visited NUAST. Our students also had the chance to see what their school was like in return. Ningbo is a minor city in China but still has a larger population than London. We took part in a traditional tea ceremony, focussed our minds in the historic art of Tai chi, and mingled with our Chinese counterparts in English and Maths lessons. The Chinese students were very keen to learn from us and practise their English in conversation and many lifelong friendships were formed over our few days immersion in the school.

Other activities on the trip included Chinese calligraphy lessons, a performance of Macbeth (as a piece of traditional British culture) to the Chinese and ping pong lessons with some Olympians-in-waiting. Throughout the trip our students tried many local foods, and many emerged as 'chopstick pros' by the last evening together. The restaurants for each meal were chosen by our native guide Iris who was infinitely knowledgeable about the area and the history of the country itself.

Elliot Hawker, a student who attended the trip said: "It was a great opportunity to see how school differs in China to the UK. We made new friends and tried many local delicacies that you wouldn't find anywhere else in the world." Toni Camilleri, representing AccessChina UK said: "Exchange visits to China are all about opening the eyes of students to a world of possibilities. Many came back from the trip with a new thirst for travel and a wider understanding of different cultures."

This has been an unforgettable trip for our students at NUAST and it is hoped it will be the first of many fruitful exchanges between us and the Chinese.

Mr Wood , Mr Edwards & Mrs Langsdale



# Shakespeare In Action

Martin Berry, director and actor, visited NUASt recently to work with Year 11 on their Shakespeare study- Much Ado about Nothing.

Having directed many past productions of Shakespeare's masterpieces, Martin took the students through the nuances of language, character and theme, provoking a lively discussion of the play in performance and how the text can be brought from 'page to stage'. Students were encouraged to approach the text in different ways and consider Shakespeare's intentions- we particularly enjoyed his discussion about character names and innuendos! The sessions ended with students taking on the role of director- considering where the play could be staged (North Korea was a particularly interesting idea to elicit the theme of class differences!) and how the characters may perform their lines. This made for some interesting viewing as brave students stood and performed key scenes in the play! Ending the day with a 'Royalty versus Peasants' game was also a favourite of 11.3!

Thanks so much to Martin and the Lakeside Theatre for helping us to bring the play to life for our exam!

Mrs Lewis



## Design Thinking

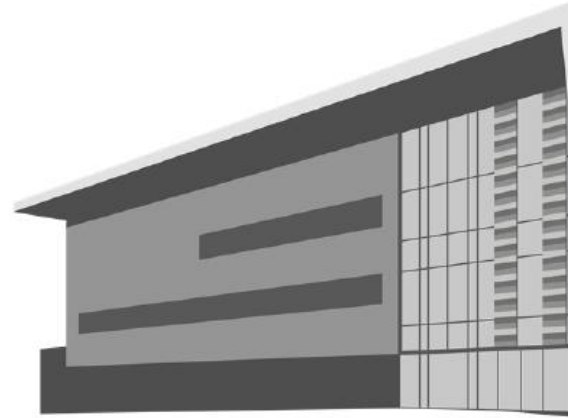
Design this year has seen a significant transformation in the subject area. The qualifications' focus of delivery has shifted to an increased emphasis of mathematic capability and iterative design across both GSCE 9-1 and GCE. As a result of this our current year 12's have been set a mathematical and creative challenge. They are designing a small piece of furniture using only a wire frame system. They have been given a restricted amount of material to challenge their creativity to produce an aesthetically pleasing design and that successfully fulfils the strength requirements.

The students are applying iterative design principles meaning they are constantly reviewing, researching and refining their conceptual ideas. Through the nature of this design principle it challenges the students' mindsets in preparation for future careers in the design industry.

Mr Goodere-Dale



# VEX Robotics at NUASt



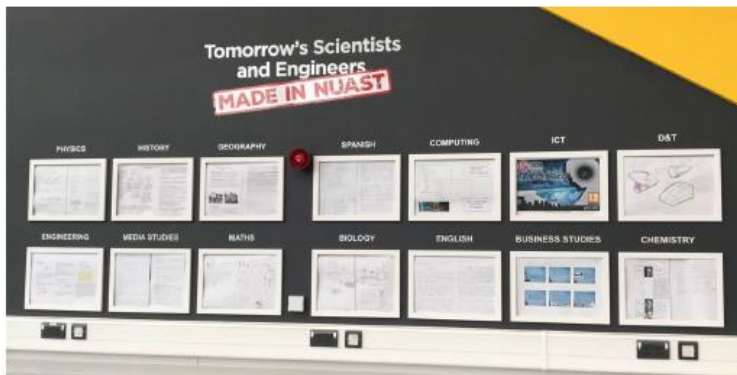
A team of Computer Science, Engineering and Maths students competed in the international VEX Robotics Tournament last season and, after coming first in a local regional event, qualified for the national finals at Birmingham's NEC. VEX Robotics is a worldwide competition which asks schools to design and build a fully-functioning autonomous machine that can compete against others in a challenging game. For the team that qualified last academic year this involved picking up start shaped objects and hurling them at the opposing team in order to score points.

The finals event was attended by thousands of families, teachers and students as part of the Big Bang Fair that is held at the NEC each year. The students got the chance to view the exhibits on offer in addition to being a show in their own right as they contended in front of the Birmingham crowds.

This year NUASt will host local schools in its own regional event as our team aims to qualify for a second year running. We wish the team luck as they work towards the 2017/18 In The Zone challenge.

Mr Wood

## Celebrating Success



This year we are celebrating students' work in a different way. The idea is very simple – a high impact display of excellent work. Not work that necessarily looks pretty, but work that is of a high quality and has been achieved by hard work and determination. Work that sets the standard of excellence, and inspires other students to aim for that quality.

Mr Smith



### Key NUASt Dates

**Term 2 Dates: 30/10/17—15/12/17**

**Y11 Parents Evening: 25/01/18**

**Y10 Parents Evening: 14/06/18**

**Y12 Parents Evening: 01/03/18**

**Y13 Parents Evening: 08/02/18**

**Y11/13 Reports: WB 10/01/18**

**Y12 Reports: WB 16/05/18**

**Y10 Reports: WB 11/07/18**



### Parent Maths Puzzle

- Which of these two sums is the biggest?
- Can you decide WITHOUT using a calculator?

987654321	123456789
087654321	123456780
007654321	123456700
000654321	123456000
000054321	123450000
000004321	123400000
000000321	123000000
000000021	120000000
<u>+000000001</u>	<u>+100000000</u>

To check your answer email Ms Barr:  
pbarr@nuast.org