



# NCS NEWSLETTER

7th June 2024

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## Headmaster's Message



I hope you have all sat down with your children to watch on TV some scenes showing the commemoration of D-Day – 80 Years ago yesterday. The 9000 or so allied troops who sacrificed their lives on the first day alone deserve to be remembered and I would urge parents to share a few minutes with your children in gratitude to those who fought against the Nazis leading eventually to the liberation of Europe. In school we did just that. Alongside grainy filmstrips of the actual landings, the testimonies of the few surviving veterans speak of the horror of the battle and the bravery, comradeship, resilience and

sense of purpose of that remarkable generation. Two Year 10 students, Amelia B and Calla W, read passages to explain the context of the D-Day landings and reflections made by the Supreme Allied Commander, Dwight Eisenhower, *“Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all in any true sense.”*

St Margaret’s Church with Trafford MBC will be commemorating the sacrifices made during the D Day Landings in Normandy 80 years ago this coming Sunday in church beginning at 11.00.

As part of the programme, they have Terry Crolley on the Organ, Sasha Johnson-Manning (professional Opera singer) performing two pieces. There will be a short talk from Craig Monaghan who was badly wounded in Afghanistan; he was the only survivor when his APC was attacked. He will describe the feelings of all soldiers as they enter a conflict zone. The High Sheriff and the Leader of the Council will both be doing a reading. There will be a warm welcome for all who wish to attend.

Trafford are providing refreshments on completion.



1 - D-Day Landings 1944

## School Communication

### School Communication

Dr Askey has been trialling a new piece of software to inform parents of their child’s academic performance, along side the existing pastoral reporting on Arbor. The software is called ‘Pupil Progress’

and it comes with an 'app' so that academic reports can be viewed very conveniently on any smart phone or similar device. Parents will be able to see their child's assessment scores (in some cases, question by question) and how they are progressing towards their targets. More on this later in this newsletter. Currently, we are trialling access to academic data via the Pupil Progress APP with Y10 parents in preparation for parents evening next week and will roll out to all other year groups for the summer reports in July.

**Y10 parents, please check your email for an invitation from Pupil Progress.**

### **Loreto Prep**

I am pleased to report that the designation of the Loreto Prep site as 'an asset of community value' has been retained. These are normally in place for 5 years. This supports the commitment to retaining the land to be used for educational purposes.

### **Gang Culture**

Nearly all young people – from all schools and walks of life – know how to behave. They are civilized, respectful and stay out of trouble. A small number act like louts, are led astray and adopt a gang mentality. We don't accept this at North Cestrian. Fuelled by easy social media communication and attracted to the appeal of a supposed glamorous lifestyle some young people feel they can ride roughshod over the thoroughly decent majority, causing some to be concerned or feel unsafe. Staying silent must not be an option. Parents and pupils are encouraged to share information in confidence. Every adult in the school will listen to any child who is anxious. We always investigate and intervene, but we can only do this when people speak out, on time, in truth and in full. I repeat, nearly all young people – from all schools and walks of life – know how to behave. Our impression cannot be tainted by those minute numbers who don't. Mr Bell's article further in the newsletter refers to the feedback from Pupil Voice survey which reinforces the positive aspects of school life, while giving opportunity to further address issues raised.

### **Advanced Notice**

Tue 11/6	Year 10 Parents Evening (On-line)
Sun 16/6-Thu 20/6	Barcelona Trip
Wed 19/6	INSET (School Closed to pupils) PTFA Meeting - 1900-2100 Head's Study
Fri 28/6	Summer Music Festival Vanstone Hall 7-8pm TBC
Mon 1/7-Fri 5/7	Year 10 Work Experience Week
Mon 1/7	New Year 6 Parents Evening
Thu 4/7	New Year 6 Induction Day



## Deputy Reflections



It has been a great week for Character Education. Both the Pupil Voice and the Parent Voice have been completed and I will gradually release the headlines. Indeed we now sharpen the process of speaking to the pupils about their ideas and concerns and will also launch some more parent workshops to discuss the outcomes of the parent voice survey.

Pupil Voice Headlines:

90% of pupils say that teachers help them to do their best.

91% of pupils really like the guidance and feedback including the half termly report on Arbor.

89% of pupils say that the teacher gives them challenging work. The same number says that teachers really listen to them in lessons.

92% of pupils feel safe at school and 97% say that they are encouraged to treat everyone equally and with respect.

85% and 82% are happy that they are encouraged to look after their physical health and mental health.

95% say that they are encouraged to take on responsibility and be independent.

89% really think that the Character Education Programme is benefitting them.

- See if you are on the [character news](#)
- Check out the latest [character development opportunities](#) or continue to build your [character bench mark certificate](#).
- [You can Nominate a Pupil for their Character Development here.](#)
- Pique your interest for the [cultural capital](#) and [send in your reflections](#)

These are the winners of the Character Education Programme's £20 investment for their achievements in Half Term 5. Pupils receive the voucher and work out which experiences or resources would help them take the next step. Congratulations to....

Character Role Models: **G, Mikkel 7JRO, C, Laasya 7ITA, V, Harshi 7RMI, C, Sum Yau Katie 8JMI, W, Kali 8RRA, , R, Atrik 8JMA, R, Zoe Ysabelle 9RDO, A, Maria 9RDO, H, Kevin 10 JRI, El, Abbs 10JRI, O, Praise 10SMI**

Extra-curricular Role Models: **P, Sebastian 7ITA, A, Carlos 7RMI, C, Laasya 7ITA, C, Carly 8JMI, T, Candice 8RRA, G, Charlie 8JMA, C, Cameron 9AWI, P, Jayan 9RDO, L, Niew 10JSC**

Cultural Capital Role Models: **P, Asmita 7JBA, J, Anjali 7JRO, V, Harshi 7RMI, W, Millie-Rose 8JMI, F, Logan 8RTA, H, Will 9SFE, M, Arushi 9AWI, P, Oliver 9SFE, A, Haashir 10SMI, A, Makean 10HVA, A, Zaki 10JSC, A, Isaac 10JSC**

## Academic News

**Year 10 Parents Evening** will be held on Tuesday June 11th via School Cloud. Please book your appointments soon as bookings close Monday 10 June.



### GCSE in PE | Full Course

Year Group 11 | Class 11X/Pe1

Scout Finch

09.09.2020



[Use Tracking](#)

Minimum Target Grade	Overall Total Marks / 350	Current Grade	Scaled Average Unit Marks / 350	Average Unit Grade
4	168	3	168	3

Target Grid	
Grade	Marks away (Projected)
4	3
5	24
6	46

Unit	1: Fitness and Body Systems (36%)	2: Health and Performance (24%)	3: Practical (30%)	4: PEP (10%)
Grade	3	5	4	4

Topic Summary	Total Marks	Grade
1.1: Applied anatomy and physiology		
1.2: Movement analysis		
1.3: Physical training		
1.4: Use of data		
2.1: Health, fitness and well-being		
2.2: Sport psychology		
2.3: Socio-cultural influences		
2.4: Use of data		

2: Health and Performance (24%)	Total Marks	Grade
Question Level Analysis Average		
Past Paper Marks / 70	35	
2: Total Past Paper Marks / 70	35	
2: Total Scaled Marks / 84	42	
2: Health and Performance (24%) / 84	42	5
Average Total Marks / 70	35	
Current Unit Grade	5	

4: PEP (10%)	Total Marks	Grade
Personal Exercise Programme / 20	10	
4: PEP Scaled Marks / 35	18	
4: Current Unit Grade	4	

1: Fitness and Body Systems (36%)	Total Marks	Grade
Question Level Analysis Average		
Past Paper Marks / 90	33	
1: Total Past Paper Marks / 90	33	
1: Total Scaled Marks / 126	46	
1: Fitness and Body Systems (36%) / 126	46	3
Average Total Marks / 90	33	
Current Unit Grade	3	

3: Practical (30%)	Total Marks	Grade
Best Individual Sport / 35	20	
Best Team Sport / 35	22	
Next Best Team / Individual Sport / 35	20	
3: Total Unit Scaled Marks / 105	62	
3: Current Unit Grade	4	

Subject	Teacher	Minimum Target Grade	Teacher Predicted Grade	Average Unit Grade	Progress	Classwork	Using Feedback	Growth Minutes	Participation	Attitude
GCSE in Computer Science G19	Miss Collins	6	8	8	Exceeding	Role Model	Role Model	Role Model	Developing	Positive
GCSE in English Language A19	Miss Johnson	4	6	6	Exceeding	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Role Model
GCSE in English Literature A19	Mrs Roche	4	6	6	Meeting	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
GCSE in Maths A19	Mr Vaughan	7	7	5	Meeting	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
GCSE in Psychology Edexcel (P12)	Miss Mizenham, Ms Rae	6	7	7	Exceeding	Role Model	Positive	Positive	Developing	Role Model
GCSE in Religious Studies A19	Miss Bolton	4	7	6	Exceeding	Positive	Role Model	Role Model	Developing	Role Model
GCSE in Separate Sciences - Biology A19	Mrs Chandia, Miss Tallis	6	8	9	Exceeding	Positive	Positive	Positive	Developing	Positive
GCSE in Separate Sciences - Chemistry A19	Dr Ashley	6	8	8	Exceeding	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
GCSE in Separate Sciences - Physics A19	Miss Taylor	6	7	6	Meeting	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
L1/2 BTEC Tech Award in Health & Social Care Award - P12	Dr Sadger, Miss Tallis	L2M	L2M	L2P	Meeting	Positive	Developing	Positive	Positive	Positive

## 2 - Pupil Progress

We are very happy to introduce our new academic progress tracking software called **Pupil Progress**.

Year 10 and 11 have already had our new format academic reports using the software. We are always happy to hear your feedback.

The new reports and tracker allow teachers, parents and pupils to see pupil progress data very readily. We will publish a guide shortly to support parents and pupils in using this valuable information to better identify and target areas for improvement (see example) for each subject pupils' study.

At KS4 (Y10/11) we will refer to GCSE grades and associated subject assessment criteria.

### As a general rule:

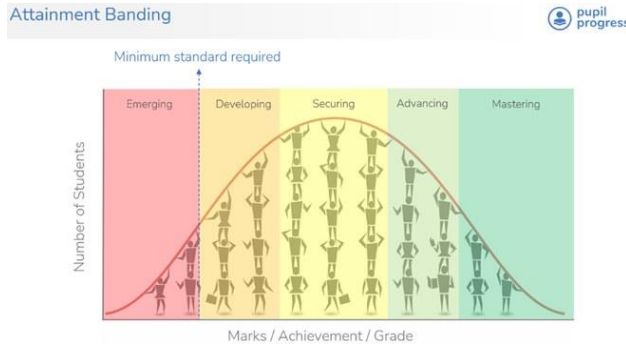
Red is 2+ grades below minimum target grade,

Yellow, 1 grade below,


Green is on track and blue is above expectations.



At KS3 (Y7-9) we will be using a mastery model to show whether pupils are on the right flight path to achieve expected outcomes at GCSE. We will provide further detail in due course.



**Same Attainment, Different Progress** 



Progress is measured against the students own prior attainment - their Minimum Target Grade (informed by KS2 Prior Attainment)

Colours are automatically set to:

- Above MTG
- On MTG
- Below MTG
- 2 or more grade below MTG

## KS3 Reports



**Minimum Target Grade**

Age-related Target Grade based on their KS2 Prior Attainment expected pathway through to KS4

**Unit Summary**


Overview of the current grades for each unit colour-coded to show comparison to MTG

**Topic summary**

Displays the percentage of marks that a student has got correct for any question asked covering any core topic or skill area

**Unit Breakdown**

This shows any End of Topic Tests or assessments that have been used to calculate the unit grade and marks. Some subjects will also have Question Level Analysis for the unit showing the marks for each question




**KS3 Drama | Pupil Progress Mastery**

Year Group 7 | Class 7X1 (Data)

Charlie Bucket

27.08.2021



**Minimum Target Grade**

Securing

Average Term % / 100

71

Average Unit Grade

Advancing

**Target Grid**

Grade	Marks away (Percentage Unit)
Securing	A
Advancing	A
Mastering	11

**Unit Summary**

Unit	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Grade	Securing	Advancing	

**Topic Summary**

Topic	Total Marks	Grade
AD1: Create and develop ideas to communicate meaning for theatrical performance. / %	70	Advancing
AD2: Apply theoretical skills to realise practical intentions in live performance. / %	80	Advancing
AD3: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is developed and performed. / %	68	Securing
AD4: Analyse and evaluate your own work and the work of others. / %	87	Securing

**Term 1**

Assessment	Total Marks	Grade
Scripted performance review / 100	60	Securing
Raw Total Marks / 100	8	
Gross Total / 100	68	Advancing
Raw Total Marks / 15	9	
Big Day Out / 100	60	Securing
Attitude to Learning	C: The student...	
<b>Average Total Marks</b>	<b>67</b>	
<b>Current Unit Grade</b>	<b>Securing</b>	

**Term 2**

Assessment	Total Marks	Grade
Raw Total Marks / 20	15	
Raw Performance / 100	75	Advancing
Attitude to Learning		
<b>Average Total Marks</b>	<b>75</b>	
<b>Current Unit Grade</b>	<b>Advancing</b>	

**Term 3**

Assessment	Total Marks	Grade
Attitude to Learning		

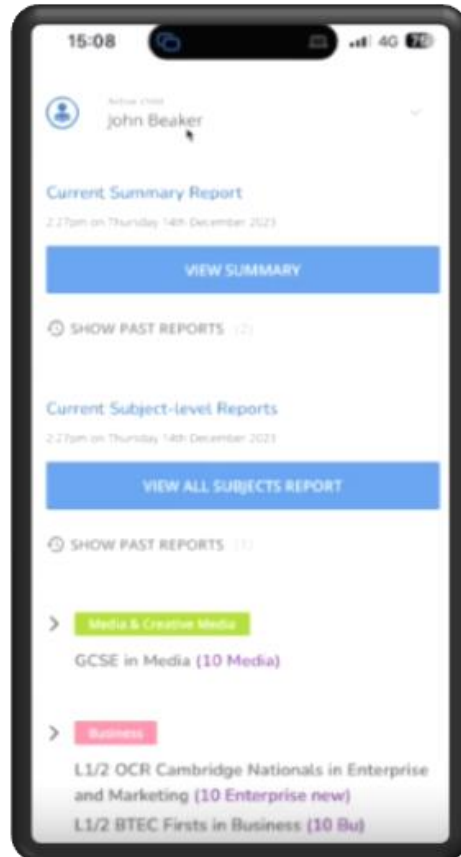
**Average Unit Grade**

Average level based on achievement across all formal assessments throughout the year

**Unit Grade**

Unit Grade currently achieved  
The background colour shows grade compared to Minimum Target Grade:

- Above MTG
- On MTG
- Below MTG
- 2 or more grade below MTG



We are trialling access to academic data via the Pupil Progress APP with Y10 parents in preparation for parents evening next week and will roll out to all other year groups for the summer reports in July. **Y10 parents, please check your email for an invitation from Pupil Progress.**

Via the **Pupil Progress App**, parents and pupils have instant access to academic reports.

The **Summary report** gives the headline grades of all subjects.

The **All Subjects Report** provides the summary page and separate subject reports as one document, that can be downloaded or printed.

**Individual subject** reports can also be accessed via the subject links.

You will be able to see historical reports and we will be able to report in class test scores to you directly. This aspect of the software is still in development, and I will update parents in September to clarify how we intend to make the most of this exciting development.

## Business News



### **The Economist**

We have a number of copies of the economist in school at the moment. I would encourage students from all years to come to U3 or the journal board in the canteen and take a look. For Year 10s going into college applications, I would promote the use of them to develop your wider understanding of current affairs and look for the hook to make you shine in any interviews

### **Class update**

Year 11 have now completed both of the GCSE Business papers.

Immensely proud of the work they have put in.

### **Year 10**

Have their feedback from the mock exams and have work set on Seneca to support filling in any gaps in knowledge. To support this further they have access to a shared area with a range of different resources to support revision.

## I have drop-in sessions every break



- Let me know you are coming.
- Attend with an agenda (work won't be provided without you providing the agenda)
- Show impact from the session.

## Maths News



**BMC  
2024  
PUBLIC  
LECTURE**



**KATIE  
STECKLES**

**MATHS GREATEST  
UNSOLVED PUZZLES**



**Mon 17th June**



**18:45 - 19:45**



**Roscoe Building  
Lecture Theatre A**

**GET YOUR TICKETS. GET YOUR TICKETS. GET YOUR**



We are in full swing with our Key Stage 3 end of year assessments, please encourage students to keep up with their revision. Next week we will be sitting calculator papers, the recommended calculator is the Casio fx-83GT CW, which is available through the school and all sellers of calculators both on the high-street and online.

Year 10 have recently been sent links to access their feedback from the recent GCSE mock exams. Please encourage them to download this and start working on the areas for improvement ready for Year 11.

The most interesting thing about mathematics is its use to solve some of life's great mysteries, some of the problems that mathematicians have tried to solve take years, decades or even centuries to be fully comprehended and solved. Many are still unsolved. Katie Steckles is a mathematician and youtuber based at Manchester University, in this lecture Katie will discuss some of the greatest unsolved maths puzzles.

For more content from Katie and other mathematicians have a look at the following Channels:

<https://www.youtube.com/@KatieSteckles>

<https://www.youtube.com/@numberphile>

<https://www.youtube.com/@standupmaths>

## Debate Workshop

"On Wednesday 5th June, DebateMate came to our school to lead a debate workshop, teaching us the skills and confidence needed to take part in Parliamentary style debate. We learned lots about debating, for example the different styles and how to structure an argument using PEEL. This was very interesting for me as I was inspired by our guest speakers - it was a great experience." By Honey H

"In my opinion, the debate workshop was very fun and a memory to look back on. The leaders were very sweet, and we did numerous activities with the debate team in KS4 & younger years in KS3. It was refreshing seeing how enthusiastic the younger years were for debating & extra-curricular activities. I think that events like this let me have something to cherish and feel like I have a place I belong in. I hope that more events like this take place so the years to come can treasure happy moments like this like I do.

Thank you so much Miss Johnson for putting in the effort for creating these opportunities for us, we really do appreciate it!"

By Tasfiah I



*3 - Debate Workshop*



*4 - Debate Workshop*



*5 - Debate Workshop*



*6 - Debate Workshop*



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about PALWORLD

In Palworld, players head out into an environment where they must craft items and survive alongside creatures called 'Pals'. In this sense, it's similar to Minecraft: fight monsters while maintaining a base. Palworld has sold more than six million copies and often has over two million people playing online simultaneously.



## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### MATURE CONTENT



While Palworld may look cute and cuddly, the game does have its more mature moments. For example, if you try to catch a Pal and don't succeed, the game displays a mild swear word. There are also minor references to inhumane acts like slavery when getting your Pals to perform certain tasks for you. While the presentation is intended to be humorous, this could still be seen as being in poor taste.

### VIOLENCE

Palworld has been referred to as "Pokémon with guns" and with good reason. As the game progresses, Pals can be given firearms, explosives and other weapons, allowing them to fight by the player's side. There are several moments where cute animals use these guns to kill other Pals or fight against bosses. The violence is cartoonish and bloodless, but it's present.

### SUGGESTIVE WRITING

Some of the Pals' descriptions – found in the game menu – can be very suggestive and adult in nature. The game makes a joke of balancing on the line between age-appropriate and mature content: playing on the contrast between the two while never being outright explicit. While it's possible that younger players won't notice this content, it's just as conceivable that they will.

### ONLINE PLAY

Palworld can be played with other people online. On Xbox, players can only play with people on their friends list. On PC, however, up to 32 players can share in the same game, playing in a large online world, and these players may not necessarily be known to the host beforehand. It can be quite complicated to set up these servers. However, it can be quite complicated to set up these servers (online worlds) and they cost money to keep active.

### DIFFICULTY

Despite its endearing visuals, Palworld is actually an extremely difficult game in places: defeating bosses, catching Pals and exploring the environment can all be very tricky. It takes a lot of skill – or working together with a friend – to be successful, which could be off-putting or even aggravating to a player expecting something more like Minecraft or Pokémon.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### WATCH GAMEPLAY

Watching gameplay and reviews for Palworld on sites like YouTube is the best available means of gathering information on it, second only to playing it for yourself. Currently, there are plenty of videos showing this game off to the internet at large, along with detailed breakdowns of what can be found or done within it.

### LEND A HAND

By learning the basics of the game – Pal catching, battling, crafting items and building up a base – you can help to lower the difficulty for younger players. This, in turn, decreases the likelihood that such players will need to look online for tips and tricks, where they could quite easily stumble across more violent and mature content associated with the game.

### SET CONTENT LIMITS

As Palworld is available on Xbox Game Pass, it's easy for players to access it. Any player subscribed to this service can simply find the title on Game Pass and hit the download button. If a child or young person isn't allowed to play Palworld, the best way to prevent them downloading it regardless is to enable age limits on their account. Setting the limit below 12 will not allow users to install Palworld.

### PLAY TOGETHER

By playing Palworld yourself, you'll have the best chance of catching any content that you don't think is suitable for children, as well as getting an idea of how violence is presented in the game. The conflict is cartoonish in nature – until players and Pals unlock the ability to use guns, at which point it can become more intense. It's likely best for you to give it a look and form your own opinion.

### PLACE BOUNDARIES

Limit options when it comes to online play. For players on PC, they'll still be able to cooperate with friends through the game's multiplayer option, much like Xbox users. Just because they have the option to run a dedicated server that's open to anyone doesn't mean they need to take it. The risks of interacting with strangers can be significantly lowered or even eliminated entirely by playing on servers which are restricted to friends only.

### Meet Our Expert

Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GORecon, Lloyd Coombes has worked in the games media industry for five years. He's played every Tekken title since the series began and, as a parent, also values the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.





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